WEDNESDAY
April 30, 2025

BENGALURU
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30 April 2025

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Inauguration on auspicious *Akshay Tritiya*, 30 April

ICA-D879(8)/2025

Government of West Bengal

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DISCRIMINATION ALLEGATION

Trump probes legal journal from Harvard

WORLD » PAGE 18

MONSOON FLUCTUATION

'Change hits productivity in Bay of Bengal'

NEWS » PAGE 16

'INADEQUATE ENFORCEMENT'

U.S. puts India back on IPR watch list

BUSINESS » PAGE 17

DRACONIAN MEASURES

A Sri Lankan anti-terror law that needs repeal

The govt. must deliver on pre-election rhetoric

EDITORIAL » PAGE 12

BACK IN BUSINESS

Narine's spell turns it Knight Riders' way

SPORT » PAGE 19

UN chief calls for dialogue between India and Pakistan

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

With tensions escalating between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, United Nations chief Antonio Guterres stands ready to support any initiatives, acceptable to both parties, for "de-escalation" and "resumption of dialogue", his office has said.

The UN Secretary-General "remains deeply concerned about the situation between India and Pakistan. He strongly urges both governments to exercise restraint and avoid any escalation," a statement by the office of his spokesperson said on Monday. Mr. Guterres "reaffirms his belief that even the most challenging issues can be resolved peacefully through dialogue," it said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Forces have a free hand to respond to terror, says PM

The mode, targets, and timing of the response are left to the security forces, Modi says at a meeting attended by the Defence Minister, NSA, CDS, and the chiefs of Army, Air Force, and Navy

Nistula Hebbar
Dinakar Peri
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Affirming that it is India's "national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism", Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly said on Tuesday that the Indian armed forces had his full confidence and "complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing" of India's response in the aftermath of last week's terror attack at Pahalgam that left 26 people dead.

The Prime Minister is reported to have said this during a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Air Force chief Air Marshal A.P. Singh, and Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi. The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's residence on Tuesday.

Action plan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a high level meeting at his residence in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Government sources said that the high-level huddle was held a day before the Prime Minister is set to preside over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, the second such meeting after the Pahalgam attack.

"Prime Minister Modi expressed complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the Indian Armed Forces," said a source in the government. "He added that they [the armed forces] have complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of our response," the source added.

Military action

Tuesday's meeting indicates that some military action is being considered to follow a series of diplomatic measures announced against Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack.

Meanwhile intelligence-based targeted counter terror operations continued in Kashmir on Tuesday, defence sources said, even as ceasefire violations along the Line of Control continued for the fifth consecutive night.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

What's wrong with using Pegasus for national security: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked petitioners on Tuesday if there was something wrong in the government using Israeli military-grade Pegasus spyware for security reasons against "anti-national elements".

"What is wrong if the country used that spyware for security reasons against anti-national elements? There is nothing wrong with having spyware. Against whom it is used, is the point," Justice Surya Kant, heading a Bench with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, addressed petitioners, including senior journalist N. Ram.

The observation came after senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi said the "basic question" in this litigation was whether or not the government possessed Pegasus, and if it was used for illegal surveillance on private citizens.

> There is nothing wrong with having spyware. Against whom it is used, is the point... We cannot compromise the security of the nation, especially in the present scenario
>
> **JUSTICE SURYA KANT**
> SC judge

Justice Kant said the right to privacy had to be protected from state surveillance. "But we cannot compromise the security of the nation, especially in the present scenario," Justice Kant emphasised.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

PM Carney leads Liberals to victory in Canadian polls

Associated Press
TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party has won the federal election, capping a stunning turnaround in fortunes fuelled by U.S. President Donald Trump's annexation threats and trade war.

Mr. Carney's rival, populist Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre, was voted out of his seat in Parliament. The Liberals were projected to win more of Parliament's 343 seats than the Conservatives. It was not immediately clear if they would win an outright majority.

In a victory speech, Mr. Carney stressed the importance of unity in the face of Washington's threats.

EDITORIAL » PAGE 12
RELATED REPORTS ON » PAGES 14 & 18
OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

I want to have a global presence and bring more competitions

The International Ambassador for the TCS 10K Bengaluru speaks about turning disaster into triumph post 2012, her excitement for Kipyegon's impending record and prize money at the Olympics

INTERVIEW

Dalilah Muhammad

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A disappointing show at the 2012 United States Olympic trials only added fuel to Dalilah Muhammad's desire to become a world-class athlete.

From finishing 16th and failing to make it to London, Dalilah fashioned a glorious turnaround to claim the women's 400m hurdles gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Far from done, she added two Olympic medals at Tokyo 2020 (400m hurdles silver, 4x400m relay gold). The 35-year-old American, the International Event Ambassador for the 17th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, spoke about her glittering career and more. Excerpts:

You broke the 400m hurdles world record at the 2019 World championships. Could you talk us through that experience?

There was a feeling that something special was about to happen. Whether that was going to be the world record, I did not know. I definitely thought I was capable of running fast. My coach had told me I was capable of breaking the world record. My self belief was cemented when my training partner, Brianna Rollins-McNeal, looked at me and said that she couldn't wait to see me do it. It was already planted in her mind. She believed it so much, and it made me truly believe too.

From missing London 2012 to winning gold in Rio 2016, that is quite an extraordinary story. Tell us about your mindset in that four year period.

Going into college, I always had the mindset that being a professional athlete was next. I thought it was my God-given right. Up until that point, I had always been good. I was a child star.

But by the time 2012 came along, that was not the reality because it came to a point where your talent can only take you so far. I was not putting in the work required to be a professional athlete. I had to change the way I did things, my diet, my mindset, my work ethic...After that 2012 Olympics disaster, I had to fight harder to do more.

That first year of training after 2012 was the hardest period. I went to train with Lashinda Demus, who was the top 400m hurdler in America. Training with her and seeing her work ethic really pushed me to a different mindset.

You ran your season best time at the Botswana Grand Prix (53.81s) earlier this month, but you have announced that 2025 will be your last season. What brought about the retirement announcement?

The plan was to retire at the 2024 Olympic Games. I was hoping that I would make it to Paris, but I missed out. I took the time to prioritise being healthy, free from injuries and the strongest I can be.

That is why I pushed the retirement to 2025. The World championships at Tokyo is the last competition on my schedule. People expect you to exit the sport when you can no longer do it at all. I want to go out knowing that I can still push myself.

Tell us about your post-retirement plan. Do you want to get into coaching?

A sportsperson's next step is to go into coaching. But for me, I want to have a global presence and bringing more competitions to our sport. This will bring more opportunities for athletes, and will open the door for more women athletes. I want to bring races to places where athletics has not been to before.

SUDHAKARA JAIN

World Athletics has now introduced prize money at the Olympics. This was not well received by other federations, who believe that Olympic pride should not be tainted with prize money. What are your thoughts about this?

Why should athletes not be able to make money from the Olympics? I think most athletes do this because we love it. We don't do it for the money. However, we need ways to support ourselves. Being at such a high level, such as the Olympics, athletes should definitely be able to make a living from that.

The Grand Slam Track is a new, almost revolutionary way of looking at how to conduct athletic events. Do you like the idea of the Grand Slam Track?

I absolutely love it. Track and field has come such a long way, but there's still so much further it can go. The idea is to make our sport a professional sport, where every single athlete has a professional contract. The Grand Slam is trying to push for this, and it gives athletes more opportunities to make money and really show who we are and what we are capable of.

World Athletics has stated that they will soon introduce a one-time genetic testing for athletes who want to compete in the women's category. Do you support this move?

This is such a touchy subject, especially in this current climate of what identifies as woman, what are the parameters for each gender. I have read Caster Semenya's book. Having read how evasive and traumatising some of these procedures can be, I am a bit hesitant about gender testing.

Faith Kipyegon will soon attempt to become the first woman to run a sub four-minute mile. Do you think she can do it?

I'm just amazed. I'm in awe. I need to be there in person when she attempts it in Paris. It is hard for me to even put into words what that means for women in sports. One of my college coaches was actually the third man to have run a sub-four mile. That was not that long ago, so for a woman to even attempt it is crazy. I'm always excited to see barriers broken by women in sport.

The TCS World 10K Bengaluru has always seen a high percentage of participation from women. Tell us about the role of women in sports and athletics.

I think sports has come such a long way for women. Even my event, the 400m hurdles, the first women's championship happened only in the 1980s. For me, sports has pushed me to new places, to meet new people. It was truly empowered me through leadership, taught me discipline and all of those great things.

There are a lot of run clubs in India, and you have been involved in run clubs at a young age. Tell us about the community aspect of running...

It's just so much fun when you're running together as a group. My enjoyable experiences in running is when I'm running for fun and running with people who want to unite and have that common goal to get out there and move their bodies. Running brings people and communities together. I've run since I was seven years old. At the time, I ran with a local track club. Those are my favourite days and memories as a child – walking to practice, because I wanted to be there with my friends.

May this newly built pilgrimage site stand as a symbol of faith and harmony

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Today, Bengal's newly constructed Jagannathdham will host the sacred *Prana Pratishtha* ceremony in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal,

Mamata Banerjee

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May Lord Jagannath's divine blessings shower prosperity, peace and unity worldwide

Jagannathdham Digha

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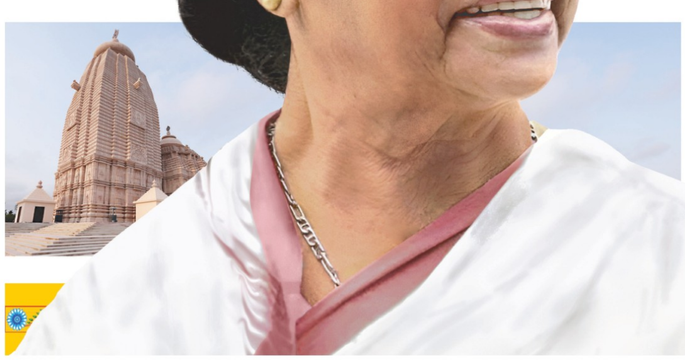

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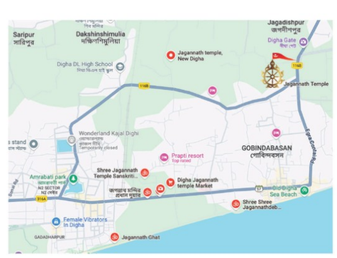

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- From Howrah Station to Digha Station (180 km): via cab or train
- From Esplanade to Digha (180 km): via bus
- From Dum Dum Airport to Digha (190 km): via cab

Government of West Bengal | The temple shall be opened to the public on 1st May. | Construction supported by WBIDCO

ICA-D880(8)/2025

After months of delay, BMTC to roll out 320 AC electric buses in May

The 13-m-long buses come with a low-floor design, making them more accessible to people with disabilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After months of delay owing to the lack of charging infrastructure, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is set to roll out 320 air-conditioned electric buses by the end of May. The new fleet, which is currently undergoing trial runs, will gradually replace the ageing Volvo buses operating on Vajra city routes and the Vayu Vajra services to Kempegowda International Airport.

The new fleet, which is currently undergoing trial runs, will gradually replace the ageing Volvo buses operating on Vajra city routes and the Vayu Vajra services to KIA. FILE PHOTO

The electric buses are being supplied by OHM Global Mobility, a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland, under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. As per the agreement, the BMTC will pay ₹65.8 a km to the operator, and each bus is expected to run 250 km a day, adding up to 87,500 km annually.

For the first time

"This marks the first time that air-conditioned electric buses are being added to the BMTC fleet," said a senior BMTC official. "We had initially planned to launch them earlier, but setting up charging infrastructure, especially on the airport premises, took longer than expected. It may take another 15 days to complete the work at the airport. However, we are confident of commencing full operations by the end of May." The 13-metre-long buses come with a low-floor design, making them more accessible to people with disabilities.

Inclusive commute

Each bus is equipped with retractable ramps to support easier boarding, ensuring a more inclusive commute.

To manage operations of the new fleet, the BMTC has earmarked four depots, Depot 7 in Subhashnagar, Depot 13 in Katriguppe, Depot 18 in Whitefield, and Depot 25 in HSR Layout.

Commuters who experienced the trial runs have expressed satisfaction with the new buses. Many highlighted the improved comfort and eco-friendliness compared to the older diesel-run models. "The seats provide excellent support for the head, and the ride quality is good. However, I feel the suspension of the Volvo buses is good, since those buses are well-built and of good quality. But keeping in mind the environment, I feel this is also good," said Santosh Kumar, a commuter from Whitefield.

Opt for public transport

Sangeetha M. Rao, a daily passenger from Jayanagar, said,"The electric buses are smoother and more modern. It's refreshing to ride in a vehicle that does not emit noise or smoke. I hope the BMTC considers revising the fare structure now that they are saving on fuel costs. Making these services affordable will encourage more people to leave their cars behind and opt for public transport, which in turn will reduce traffic congestion and pollution."

Pourakarmika dies after being knocked down by lorry; driver on the run

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 50-year-old pourakarmika, who was trying to cross West of Chord Road in Vijaynagar, was knocked down by a lorry on Tuesday.

The deceased, Saroja, was working in Ward number 107, Shivanagar, on a Direct Payment System (DPS) with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). She was supposed to be made a permanent employee of the civic body on Thursday.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 6.30 a.m. when Saroja was on her way to the ward office to report to work. While she was trying to cross the busy West of Chord Road at Dhobi Ghat Signal, a lorry that was waiting at the traffic signal suddenly moved ahead, knocking her down. She came under the front left wheel of the vehicle. She was immediately rushed to Victoria Hospital with severe head injuries, where doctors declared her brought dead."

Saroja

Civic body to provide ₹10 lakh compensation to the kin of the victim

The lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene. The Vijayanagar traffic police have seized the lorry and registered a case of death due to negligence against the driver, who has been identified through the vehicle owner. Efforts are on to track him down.

BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar condoled her death and said the deceased was known to be a dedicated worker. Adding to the tragedy was the fact that she was killed just two days ahead of her being made a permanent employee of the civic body, a longstanding demand of pourakarmikas, he said in a social media post.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Welfare) Surlkar Vikas Kishor, speaking to *The Hindu*, said the civic body will be providing ₹10 lakh compensation to the kin of the victim. The civic worker is also insured, and separate compensation will be given as per the insurance policy, he added.

Govt. orders closure of Auxiliary Nursing Midwife courses, ANMTC centres

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Karnataka has decided to close all Auxiliary Nursing Midwife Training Centers (ANMTC) and suspend the two-year Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) courses in the State from the academic year 2026-27. The government has issued an order in this regard on Monday and instructed the already enrolled students to opt for B.Sc. Nursing/General Nursing and Midwife (GNM) course instead.

There is an apprehension that the move could impact Primary Health Care (PHC) centers and healthcare services in rural areas. This has also left ANM students worried.

Self-declaration

To avoid legal complications, all students have been asked to submit consent letters or self-declaration stating that they are "voluntarily" joining the diploma nursing. While self-declaration letters have been obtained from many students, some have objected to this.

There are a total of 20 ANMTC in the State, with an admission of 30 students a centre, with a total of 600 seats. Currently, a total of 430 students have been enrolled in these centres for 2025-26, and a total of 83 staff were working.

"In the future, it is intended to remove the ANM qualification for posts through amendments in the Primary Health Care Officer (PHCO) cadre and recruitment rules. It is intended to make the ANM students in the 20 ANMTC centers aware of this and suggest them to opt for the B.Sc GNM course in the nearest government B.Sc Nursing / GNM colleges for training and to close the ANMTC centers with fewer candidates and shift them to the nearest ANMTC centers," noted the order.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Uma Buggi, Director of the State Institute of Health & Family Welfare, said, "Nursing job opportunities for those who have done ANM courses are less. In addition, the number of students enrolling in ANM courses is declining year by year. Therefore, the government has decided to close these courses and ANMTC centers in a phased manner. It has been decided to shift the students who are already enrolled in ANM courses to three-years GNM courses."

To avoid legal complications, all students have been asked to submit consent letters or self-declaration stating that they are 'voluntarily' joining the diploma nursing

'Kannada medium'

A student unhappy with the decision said, "The term of the ANM course is two years. There is also an opportunity to study in Kannada medium. However, the GNM is a three-year course with English medium only. It is difficult for us who came from rural areas and studied in Kannada medium. When the applications were invited in November 2024 for ANM courses, we left the degree college and came here. If the government had taken this decision before the application was called, we would have continued our studies there. Now it seems like neither there nor here."

Responding to this, Ms. Buggi said that English medium may be difficult in the intial stage. But in future, this is a good decision, so students will be persuaded to opt for the GNM course.

Proposal

Responding to a question whether the closure of ANM courses will affect PHCs and rural medical health services, she said that in the coming days, there is a proposal to appoint GNM nurses to PHCs and rural services. "The government will take an appropriate decision in this regard," she added.

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New model finds locusts making complex decisions in deadly swarms

In a new study, researchers have proposed a model to make sense of locust swarms in terms of a cognitive decision-making process based on each locust's perception of nearby motion; the finding marks a major shift in how scientists understand behaviour of locusts and their ability to make swarm-related predictions

Monika Mondal
NEW DELHI

In late 2019, a wave of billions of desert locusts flew into western India through Pakistan. Their journey had already spanned several thousand kilometers since they first erupted in the arid plains of East Africa.

Locusts are grasshoppers that, in the right conditions, multiply rapidly. They grow larger and change colour in response to their environment. In a process called gregarisation, they transition from solitary creatures to a swarm, congregating in large numbers and travelling together over several leagues at a time.

Historically, these 'outbreaks' have led to widespread famine and economic devastation, earning them the name "locust plagues".

The 2019-2022 outbreak was the worst to hit Kenya in 70 years and to hit Ethiopia, Somalia, and India in 25 years. More than two lakh hectares of crops were destroyed.

At this time, researchers in German and North American universities saw an opportunity to study locust swarms and flew to Kenya, hoping to refine a long-standing theory about swarming behaviour.

Previous models of locust swarms have treated them like gases in motion. Specifically, they assumed individual locusts aligned with their neighbours like self-propelled particles – a model-object used in theoretical physics.

"Initially, we wanted to replicate what we thought we knew," Iain Couzin, director of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and professor at the University of Konstanz, who has studied collective intelligence and locust behaviour for over two decades, said. "But what we didn't expect was to find that we could not replicate our previous findings, and that completely changed our understanding of how locusts form these massive swarms."

In a recent paper, Mr. Couzin and his team proposed a revised model to make sense of swarms. According to this model, locusts don't behave like gases. Instead, their movement is based on a cognitive decision-making process based on their perception of nearby motion.

The finding marks a major shift in how scientists understand locust behaviour and their ability to make swarm-related predictions. As climate change continues to alter locusts' breeding patterns, this refined understanding may be the key to protecting crops, and livelihoods, before the next swarm arrives.

From field to holograms

Just before the spread of COVID-19 became a pandemic, some members of the research team (other than Couzin) conducted a study in Kenya's Samburu and Isiolo counties. They examined large, ground-marching bands of young locusts using precise tracking methods, and noticed a pattern. The locusts weren't explicitly aligning with their immediate neighbours, contrary to what the self-propelled particles model predicted.

To test their observations, they conducted sensory-deprivation experiments in which they altered the insects' ability to see, smell or sense movement.

The results revealed that vision had a major influence in determining how locusts moved within a swarm. Locusts that couldn't see clearly lost their sense of direction while those with intact vision moved with the swarm even without physical contact.

"Those data showed that olfaction wasn't important, tactile cues weren't important, but vision was really, really important," Mr. Couzin said. "That justified the use of holographic virtual reality to study this phenomenon in more detail."

The scientists placed locusts in a fully immersive virtual-reality environment and tested their response to different visual stimuli. In these experiments, the locusts interacted with computer-generated swarms that varied in density and movement order. Soon, their key finding emerged: coherence of motion rather than crowding controlled their alignment. Even in sparsely populated swarms, the locusts moved together if their visual cues were strong.

The team realised locusts weren't behaving like gas particles. Instead, their movement followed a decision-making process based on their perception of nearby motion.

In a first: A farmer watches swarms of desert locusts that invaded his farm in Elburgon, Kenya, March 17, 2021. AP

> We thought we had a good understanding, and the old models were being used to try to make predictions, but that was the wrong way of thinking
>
> **IAIN COUZIN**
> Director of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior

To represent this, the researchers developed a new mathematical model based on a neural ring attractor network, a concept in neuroscience. Instead of treating locusts as mindless particles, the approach addressed them as decision-making entities that could integrate multiple visual inputs before choosing a direction.

The model suggested locusts may weigh different potential options and make effective decisions. "However, at the group level, there's no planning at all," Mr. Couzin added. "The group is an emergent phenomenon."

An emergent phenomenon is a complex pattern arising from simple interactions, without central control. In locust swarms, collective movement emerges from each locust's individual behaviour, creating large, coordinated swarms without a leader. This is how flocks of birds and traffic jams work, too.

"This study established how swarms move and how coordinated motion arises," Sercan Sayin, neurologist and molecular biologist at the University of Konstanz and one of the study's authors, said. "The initial direction selection and how this is maintained – that's the next question we would like to answer."

Understanding how locusts move has real-world consequences. Yet how these groups emerge or which exact factors determine the direction of their flight remains unclear.

Climate change

Climate change has worsened the problem by increasing rainfall in desert regions, creating ideal breeding conditions. The 2019-2022 outbreak – one of the worst in decades – was fuelled by unusually strong monsoons and cyclones in the Arabian Sea. Cyclones Mekunu and Luban had also struck the Arabian Peninsula in 2018. Unusual monsoons and delayed control worsened the crisis, creating a swarm.

"We thought we had a good understanding, and the old models were being used to try to make predictions, but that was the wrong way of thinking," Mr. Couzin said. "Hopefully, now we've set the record straight and we can start building a team effort to make increasingly accurate predictions. One way to do that, of course, is to start tracking animals in the wild."

"With the changing climate, the swarms are expected to become larger and more unpredictable, making management more difficult," he added. "To really be able to make predictive models or understand this better, we need much more research. We also need to involve climate scientists and vegetation experts."

(Monika Mondal is a freelance science and environment journalist. a.monikamondal@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- Locusts are grasshoppers that, in the right conditions, multiply rapidly. They grow larger and change colour in response to their environment
- In a process called gregarisation, they transition from solitary creatures to a swarm, congregating in large numbers and travelling together over several leagues at a time
- Historically, these 'outbreaks' have led to widespread famine and economic devastation, earning them the name "locust plagues"

BIG SHOT

A refiner pours liquid gold from a furnace into casts at the ABC Refinery smelter in Sydney on Tuesday. Like deforestation and land conversion, illegal gold mining threatens the Amazon rainforest. In response, Brazil's apex court recently ruled that traders in the country must prove they get their gold from legal sources. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

The optics of darker when wet

Q: Why do clothes look dark when immersed in water?

A: The colour of an object is determined by the spectral composition of the light reflected by it. When a surface is dry, the reflected light rays corresponding to the colour of the surface are superposed with diffuse white light arising out of random scattering resulting from the roughness and irregularities of the surface. In clothes, this superposition tends to fade the corresponding colour.

If clothes are immersed in water, all the kinks and interspaces are filled with water. This minimises scattering on the surface. So the reflected light comes out unsuppressed with the basic hue of the cloth. Hence it looks darker than when dry.

The effect is conspicuous on cotton clothes as the fibres are loosely packed with a lot of microscopic air spaces. This increases the surface area and consequently the scattering of light. Hence cotton clothes look light when dry and dark when wet. The effect is much less pronounced in synthetic and silk clothes as their surfaces are smoother and very little water is absorbed by them.

(G. Meena Raajeshwari, Coimbatore, and G. Sivaramakrishna, Tadepalligudem.)

The effect is much less pronounced in synthetic and silk clothes as their surfaces are smoother. FILE PHOTO

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Lawsuits filed by various plaintiffs to block Trump policies

200 More than 200 lawsuits have been filed by various plaintiffs to block Trump policies as he approaches the 100-day mark of his second term as President. Key parts of Mr. Trump's agenda have met with resistance in court from federal judges. REUTERS

Death toll from a fire in China's Liaoyang province

22 People were killed in a restaurant fire in China's Liaoyang city on Tuesday. Three others suffered injuries. There was no word on the cause of the fire. Chinese President Xi Jinping urged all-out efforts to treat those injured, the State-run *Xinhua* news agency reported. PTI

Amount Malta got from its 'golden passport' program

1.4 In billion euros. The European Court of Justice ordered Malta to close its "golden passport" program, long criticised for facilitating white collar crime and sanctions evasion. Malta defended the scheme, saying it has brought 1.4 billion euros to the nation since 2015. AP

Countries on U.S. 'priority watch list' for IP rights violation

8 The U.S. again placed India on its 'priority watch list', stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies concerning protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. The report has listed eight countries, including India, in its 'priority watch list'. PTI

Number of prisoners to be released in Vietnam

8,000 Vietnam will free more than 8,000 prisoners, including foreigners, ahead of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. It has freed nearly 1,00,000 prisoners ahead of their release dates since 2009. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

High temperatures and mango production

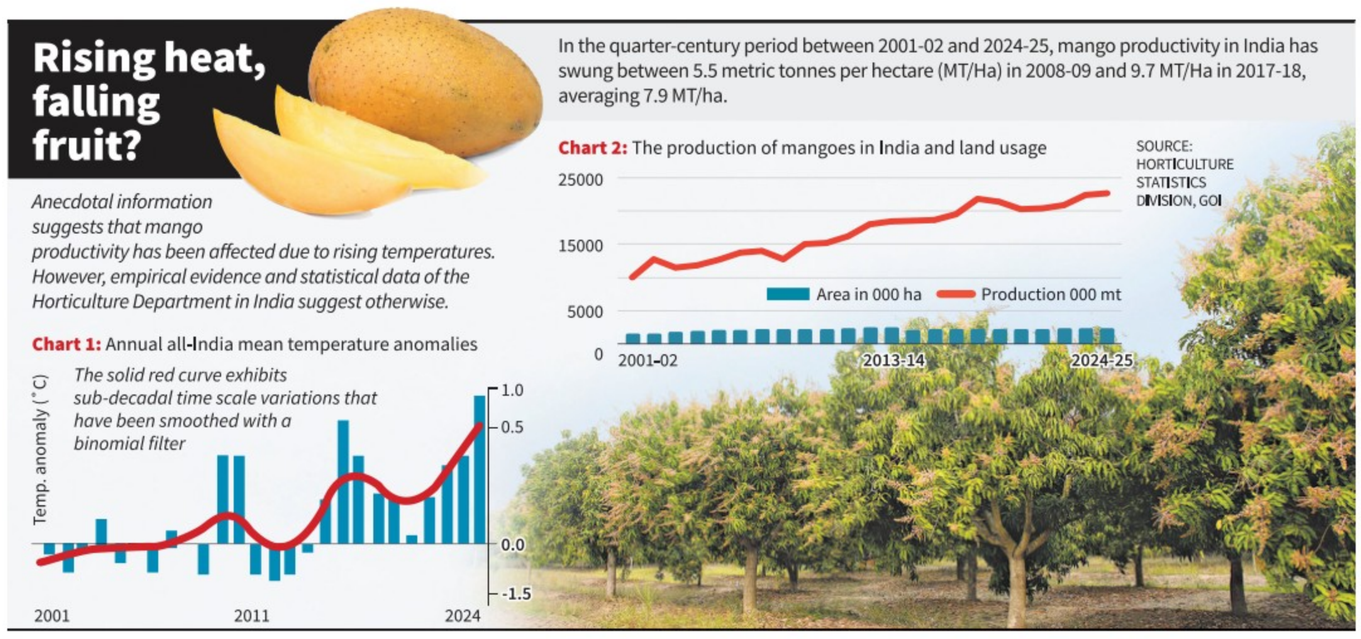
What's the quantum of growth in India? What are the challenges? How does mango production in India compare to that of China and Thailand? Does genetic diversity play a role in the hardiness and productivity of the fruit? How does it help it combat climate change?

EXPLAINER

Serish Nanisetti

The story so far:

"There is a drop in mango harvest. Mangoes no longer taste that sweet. Mangoes are expensive. Mangoes are arriving too early in the market. The mango pickle doesn't last through the year. The mango plant is flowering too early," these are some of the anecdotal conversations about mangoes in India over the past few years. Is this linked to higher temperatures?


Rising heat, falling fruit?
Anecdotal information suggests that mango productivity has been affected due to rising temperatures. However, empirical evidence and statistical data of the Horticulture Department in India suggest otherwise.
Chart 1: Annual all-India mean temperature anomalies
The solid red curve exhibits sub-decadal time scale variations that have been smoothed with a binomial filter
Temp. anomaly (°C)
1.0
0.5
0.0
-1.5
2001
2011
2024
In the quarter-century period between 2001-02 and 2024-25, mango productivity in India has swung between 5.5 metric tonnes per hectare (MT/Ha) in 2008-09 and 9.7 MT/Ha in 2017-18, averaging 7.9 MT/ha.
Chart 2: The production of mangoes in India and land usage
SOURCE: HORTICULTURE STATISTICS DIVISION, GOI
25000
15000
5000
0
Area in 000 ha
Production 000 mt
2001-02
2013-14
2024-25

What is the threat?

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Annual Climate Survey of 2024, "the country's annual mean land surface air temperature during the year 2024 was +0.65°C above the 1991-2020 average. Thus, making the year 2024 the warmest year on record since 1901." IMD data shows that the last 12 years have been warmer than earlier years, defying the statistical norm where there is a see-saw of temperatures with some years cooler than others.

Anecdotal information suggests that mango productivity has been affected due to rising temperatures. Researchers in Egypt who published a paper on 'Climate change and Mango production' say that "in the near future, agriculture as a whole and mango production, in particular, will face serious threats from climate change."

What's the report from the orchards?

However, empirical evidence and statistical data of the Horticulture Department in India suggest otherwise. In the quarter-century period between 2001-02 and 2024-25, mango productivity in India has swung between 5.5 metric tonnes per hectare (MT/Ha) in 2008-09 and 9.7 MT/Ha in 2017-18, averaging 7.9 MT/ha. In 2024-25, it is expected to be 9.4 MT per hectare. This is higher than the two other leading major producers of mango, which are China (8.74 MT/Ha) and Thailand (8.36 MT/Ha).

According to the Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in Hyderabad, the area under mango cultivation has increased. "During 2023-24, mango acreage in India was increased by 2.34% to 24.01 lakh hectares (59.34 lakh acres) with 224.23 lakh tonnes of production (as per the 3rd advance estimates) as compared to 208.72 lakh tonnes of production from 23.46 lakh hectares (57.97 lakh acres) during last year."

Do heat waves affect trees?

While the impact of higher temperatures on the human body is being studied, the jury is out on the environmental stress experienced by trees and plants. "Higher temperatures cause fruit drop, early maturity, sun scalding, and uneven ripening in mango. In a variety like Alphonso, spongy tissue disorder will be seen," points out Naga Harshita Devalla, who teaches at the College of Horticulture in Hyderabad.

"Mangoes possess physiological mechanisms that allow them to adjust and thrive in diverse and demanding environments. The substantial genetic diversity provides several advantages for the transfer of traditional or modern breeding techniques and for determining how to adapt to climate change"

The mango plant has specific weather requirements from the time buds start appearing by the end of winter. The pollination has to take place before the fruit is set. The budding stage as well as the fruit setting stage is long. Fluctuating weather patterns with intense heavy rain spells and long dry spells are changing the timing of a mango plant's budding and flowering, says a mango farmer. While rain, hail, or wind can play havoc at any of these stages and affect productivity, the hardiness of mango and higher productivity are being linked to genetic diversity.

Is genetic variation important?

Indian researchers led by Rajdeep Haldar, who published a paper in the *International Journal of Advanced Biochemistry Research* in March 2024, draw a similar conclusion about mango production and higher temperatures in the region. He linked it to genetic diversity.

"There are multiple reasons to be optimistic about the future of mango production and agriculture. These species have significant adaptability in response to their surroundings. Mangoes possess physiological mechanisms that allow them to adjust and thrive in diverse and demanding environments. The substantial genetic diversity provides several advantages for the transfer of traditional or modern breeding techniques and for determining how to adapt to climate change. The climatic conditions required for the growth and production of mango trees are to some extent compatible with the impacts of global climate change, including drought and high temperatures," the research paper stated.

THE GIST

- According to the Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in Hyderabad, the area under mango cultivation has increased.
- While rain, hail, or wind can play havoc at any of these stages and affect productivity, the hardiness of mango and higher productivity are being linked to genetic diversity.
- Indian researchers led by Rajdeep Haldar draw a similar conclusion about mango production rising due to higher temperatures in the region, linking it to genetic diversity.

What is the controversy over Bengal school scam?

Why were hundreds of teachers of State-run schools protesting outside the West Bengal School Service Commission? Has the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates been made public?

Shiv Sahay Singh

The story so far:

Last week, after days of protests outside the headquarters of the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in Kolkata's Salt Lake area, hundreds of teachers of State-run schools decided to call off the agitation for a week. The protests had erupted on April 21 after the State government went back on its promise to make public the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates in the recruitment process carried out in 2016.

What did the government say?

The government said it had sent the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates to the district inspectors of schools. The protesters said they would return to their schools, and resume the protest in a few days. On April 26, another group of protesting employees, the non-teaching staff of State-run schools, held a meeting with the State government. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that as long as the matter is pending before the courts, the State government would hand out ₹25,000 per month for Group C staff and ₹20,000 per month for Group D staff.

What have the courts ruled?

These developments followed a Supreme Court order on April 3 which upheld a Calcutta High Court decision of April 22, 2024 cancelling en bloc appointments of 25,752 teaching and non-teaching staff in State-run schools. The recruitment process was carried out in 2016 by the WBSSC. A Bench consisting of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar agreed with the High Court's finding that the selection process was "vitiated and riddled with manipulations and fraud."

The Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court ordered the termination of an entire panel of teaching and non-teaching staff as neither the WBSSC nor the West Bengal government came up with a list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates before the court. The loss of appointments of about 25,000 teaching and non-teaching staff across 19,000 schools raised serious questions on the functioning of schools in the State.

What relief has been granted?

On April 17, the Supreme Court granted some relief to the West Bengal government by allowing the services of 'untainted' teachers to the State's government and aided schools to be retained till a fresh recruitment process is completed by the end of 2025. The Court, however, passed no such order for non-teaching staff.

After the April 17 order, pressure mounted on the State government and the WBSSC to release the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates. The State government, however, insisted that teachers would get their salaries. "You don't need to worry about who is tainted and who is not. You only need to worry about whether you have your job and whether you are getting your salaries on time," Ms. Banerjee said at a public meeting on April 22. So far, neither the West Bengal Education Department nor the WBSSC has officially come out with the list. However, the protesting teachers who held meetings with WBSSC have pointed out that out of 17,206 teachers recruited during 2016, 15,403 were 'untainted' and eligible to continue teaching till the end of 2025.

As the West Bengal school recruitment scam continues to make headlines, the big question is around the list and the number of 'tainted' and 'untainted' recruitments. The protesting employees say it is not just about salaries but also about dignity, and that it is necessary to separate the grain from the chaff.

When did the scam surface?

The school recruitment scam came to the fore with the arrest of former State School Education Minister Partha Chatterjee by the Enforcement Directorate in July 2022. Subsequently, several arrests were made in the scam which involved cash-for-school jobs recruitment.

THE GIST

- The school recruitment scam came to the fore with the arrest of former State School Education Minister Partha Chatterjee by the Enforcement Directorate in July 2022.
- A Supreme Court order on April 3 upheld a Calcutta High Court decision of April 22, 2024 cancelling en bloc appointments of 25,752 teaching and non-teaching staff in State-run schools.
- As the West Bengal school recruitment scam continues to make headlines, the big question is around the number of 'tainted' and 'untainted' recruitments.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hitherto Known As Srinivas Mukund Alias Vishwanath K H M S/O Pramathanath Kurgodhiremath Residing At 72/73, 6th Cross, Manjunath Layout Munnekolala Colony, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560037, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Vishwanath Hiremath For All Future Purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SOURAV BANERJEE,** S/o Maniklal Banerjee, aged about 40 years, R/at Shoba Lake Gardens, Tower-5, Flat No. 5141, Sy.No.26, Bharathi Nagar, Kadugodi-Medahalli Road, Seegehalli, K.R. Puram, Virgonagar, Bengaluru-560 049 do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **SHRIHAN BANERJEE** to **SHIVA BANERJEE**, henceforth he shall be known and called as **SHIVA BANERJEE** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29-04-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K G RAJPAL** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUSHMA SHAILESH SHETTY,** R/o No. 318, Shivaprakruthi Apartments, Talacauvery Layout, Near Shoba Hypermart, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560 092 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUSHMA SHAILESH KUMAR SHETTY** to **SUSHMA SHAILESH SHETTY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUSHMA SHAILESH SHETTY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DIWAKAR .N KAGAWAD** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ASHMIT SHETTY,** R/o No. 318, Shivaprakruthi Apartments, Talacauvery Layout, Near Shoba Hypermart, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560 092 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHMIT SHAILESH KUMAR SHETTY** to **ASHMIT SHETTY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ASHMIT SHETTY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DIWAKAR .N KAGAWAD** at Bangalore.

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ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ.
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ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:-E-Mail:rchovijayanagara@gmail.com

No:/NHM/Tender/Vehiclecall(Call-2)/27/2025-26
Date:28.04.2025

RE TENDER Call-2 NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLES

E-tenders (Online) are invited through E-Procurement Portal from reputed parties/agencies supplying of 16 (11 under RBSK Programme and 5 other programmes) vehicles with drivers on outsource-basis for official use of Various National Programmes of Health & Welfare department, Vijayanagara District under National Health Mission. Interested Parties/ Agencies who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions annexed to this notice, may submit their bids online as given in the instructions for online bid .

The Re-Tender Call-2 schedule under e-procurement system is as follows

Details/Date and Time:01.Date of Re-Tender Notification: **29.04.2025.** 02.Last date for submission of Tender documentes: **09.05.2025. 5.00pm.** 03.Date of opening of Technical Bid: **12.05.2025. 11.00 am.** 4.Pre Bid Meeting & Queries : **05.05.2025 11.00 am RCH Office Vijayanagara.** 05.Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **20.05.2025. 11.30am.** 06.Estimated Tender Amount: **63,47,000/-.** 07.Place of Tender Opening: **DHO Office Vijayanagara**

For Further information can be obtained from District RCH officer, Vijayanagar District in office hours. Mo.No:-7892724423.

Sd/-Member Secretary, District Health and Family Welfare Society, Vijayanagar District.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/35

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB-4:Different Head:2025-26/384
Date : 29/04/2025

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 03 work of total amount of Rs **-60.40** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs. **5.20** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **50.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1 & 2 through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Work Indent No : 20166-ST and 19395 Category-2a Part-1)
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **09-05-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **13-05-2025** Noon 4.00 PM
(c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **14-05-2025**
(d) Opening of Financial Bid Date : **15-05-2025**

Work Indent No : W.I 19844 Part-2)
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **05-05-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **06-05-2025** Noon 4.00 PM
(c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date : **07-05-2025**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/40/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:JE-1:Tender-05:2025-26 Dated:- 28.04.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System:- Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-160 MDR Renewals:-
(1) Re-Asphalting of Road from Janukonda Burujanaroppa MDR from Ch 1.00 to 4.00 Km (in Selected reaches) in Chitradurga Constituency of Chitradurga Taluk (Working Ch 0.00 to 4.48 Km) (WI.19515)/call-5, Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-165.00

One cover System:- Head of Account 8443 Deposit Contribution:- (2) Construction of Separate Guard room and Toilet for male and female staff in Chitradurga District Jail in Chitradurga Town (W.I. 21113), Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-29.50
(3) Construction of Racks for keeping prisoners clothes and daily use items in barracks and cell rooms of Chitradurga District Jain in Chitradurga Town (W.I. 21102),
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-5.85

Sl. No. 01 Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 05-05-2025 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 06-05-2025 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 07-05-2025 Time: 16.15 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 09-05-2025 Time: 11.00
Sl. No. 2 and 3 Tenders dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 05-05-2025 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 06-05-2025 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 07-05-2025 Time: 16.15
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/38/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.**

Government of Karnataka
FOOD SAFETY AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION
PHI Compound, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560001.
e-mail: **cfskarnataka@gmail.com**
No: FSSD/WP/CB/6/2025-WPB Date: 28.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Food Safety and Drugs Administration, Karnataka invites tender for Supply & Installation of Basic Equipments for Divisional Food Laboratory- Mysore. Eligible suppliers can participate by submitting their bids. For more details, please visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner (Admin)
DIPR/CP/423/Zen/2025-26 Food Safety and Drugs Administration, Bangalore.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. KPTCL/B78/57511/2024-25 Date : 29-04-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids from eligible bidders for the following services : Tender for Providing Housekeeping Services to Human Resource Development Centre, KPTCL, Hoody, Bengaluru, Call-2. **Estimated Cost is Rs.** 48,78,427.00
Tender will be accepted only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **4.00 PM on 05.05.2025**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Administrator,
Human Resource Development Centre, KPTCL,
Whitefield Road, Hoody, Bengaluru-560048. Ph: 080-28540666

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION Head Office,
No.35FV + 6GF, CMRL DEPOT, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600107
Ph.No. **(044) 26426773** Email ID . : **tncsc.tn@nic.in**
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

e-tender Notice

No. BS10/007733/2025 Date : 29.04.2025

Bengal Gram (Whole) E-tender No.BS10/007733/2025 -TNCSC/25-26
Green Gram (Whole) E-tender No. BS10/014638/2025 -TNCSC/25-26

Online electronic e-tender for **Purchase of 366 MT. of Black Bengal Gram (Whole) and 238 MT. of Green Gram (Whole)** to deliver at all the TNCSC's godowns in all Regions for issuing under PTMGR NMP scheme and ICDS.

Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission : 15.05.2025 Upto 11.30 AM

DIPR/1736/TENDER/2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Forest Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga. e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/DDF/CAMPA/KFDF/TENDER/CR/07/2025-26
Date : 25-04-2025

E-Retender Notice Call 02 (Through e-Procurement Portal)

During the year 2025-26, interested forest contractors with at least 05 (five) years of experience in various sectors of Sagara Regional Forest Division for DDF & DDF ROOTSTOCK-12 works for Rs. 79.03 lakhs, CAMPA & CAMPA CA-57 works for Rs. 229 lakhs and KFDF FLEXI -83 works for Rs. 242.72 lakhs through e-Procurement Portal Tenders are invited in two-cover format. Last date & time for tender Submission is upto 4:55 PM on 02-05-2025. Complete details of works and locations are given in the e-procurement portal. For further information, this office may be contacted. Details of the tender can also be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/143/04/151

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/5054 SH Reneval/2025-26/158 Date: 25.04.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) KW-3

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **02-05-2025 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **03-05-2025 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **05-05-2025 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **06-05-2025 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/61/25-26 dt.29.04.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE BENCH
CP No. 111/BB/2024

Between : UNION OF INDIA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Represented by ROC, Karnataka **.... Petitioner**
And
YELLOW FINANCE AND EARNINGS PRIVATE & OTHERS
...Respondents

To:
1. **YELLOW FINANCE AND EARNINGS PRIVATE LIMITED,**
Having its registered Office at: No: 6,1/1,3rd Floor, Dennis Arcade, 11th Main Road, 1 Stage, Gokula, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore -560 054 **...Respondent No.1**

2. Mr. LEKSHMI S BABUPURUSHOTHAMAN,
D/o. Babupurushothaman, Aged about 34 years, Director and Shareholder/ Promoter, Yellow Finance & Earnings Private Limited 'TC 52/2363, Thottathil Veedu, Nemon P.O., Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695020. Mobile: 9632317545
Email : lekshmi@loginindian.com **.... Respondent No.3**

SUMMONS UNDER RULE 38(4) OF NCLT RULES, 2016

Whereas the albove named Petitioner has filed an CP No.111/2024 under Section 221,222,242,246 r/w Section 339 r/w Section 241(2) of the Companies Act, 2013. Wherein you have been cited as Respondents and hereby called upon to appear in this court in person or by Advocate on **02.06.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** to defend yourself, in default of appearance on the day mentioned above, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under ny hand and seal of this Court on this day 29th of April, 2025.

By ORDER OF THE COURT
Registrar,
National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru

OSRTC
ODISHA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Notice

The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), Bhubaneswar has invited a **Tender on Annual Rate Contract (ARC) for supplying of Thermal Paper Rolls for Electronic Ticketing Issuing Machine (ETIM) for a period of 3 years for OSRTC through the e-tendering process**.
The interested firms/ bidders should upload their proposals online bids on the Government e-Marketplace platform (GeM Portal) from **Dt.25.04.2025** and as per the scheduled dates mentioned in the GeM Bid document.
For any doubt, agencies/ firms may contact **+91-674-2530908** to address the issue during office hours or can email at **osrtc@nic.in & osrtccorp@gmail.com**.
The details of the terms & conditions are available on the website **www.osrtc.org** & **GeM Portal**.
The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

General Manager (A), OSRTC, Bhubaneswar
CAD-250: OIPR-38002/11/0020/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR.
E-Mail ID- acephcbam@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement
Invitation For Bids (IFB)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding To	Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction intake well, iaying of RWRM and ancillary works for improvement of water supply to Kodala NAC under AMRUT 2.0,(SWAP-III)	Identification No. ACEPHCBAM 03/2025-26 Dt.22.04.2025	456.56	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months	11.00 Hrs. of 01.05.2025	17.30 Hrs. of 16.05.2025	Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Circle, Berhampur
2.	Laying of Clear water rising main pipe line in connection with "sharing of drinking water from RWSS" for water supply to Polasara NAC under AAP 2024-25 (BASUDHA)	Identification No. ACEPHCBAM 04/2025-26 Dt.22.04.2025	264.14	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months	11.00 Hrs. of 01.05.2025	17.30 Hrs. of 16.05.2025	Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Circle, Berhampur

The technical bid shall be opened on Dt.20.05.2025 at 12.30 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PH)
C-169: OIPR-13004/11/0015/2526

Government of Karnataka
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Division Bidar

No.: EE/PWD/Dvn/Bdr/JE-3/2025-26/24 Date : 04-04-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Divn. Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the **CONSTRUCTION OF PRAJA SOUDHA, ZILLA ADALITHA KENDRA AT BIDAR.** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criterion specified in I.T.T. Clause-3 of Standard Tender document **KW-4,** to qualify for award of the Contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** of the Govt. of Karnataka **Viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Details are as follows.

1.	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	**03-05-2025 at 10.30 Hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division Bidar Karnataka**
2.	Approximate Value of Work	**Rs. 3818.78 Lakhs**
3.	Earnest Money Deposit	**Part-I through e-payment Rs. 1,00,000/-**
		Part-II Rs. 37,18,788/- Through Bank Guarantee/DD/FDR
4.	Tender Processing Fee	**Rs. 7500.00**
5.	Work Indent No.	**PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT 18182/CALL 2**
6.	Period of Completion	**18 Months (Including Mansoon)**
7.	Last date of clarification	**08-05-2025**
8.	Last date for Receipt of tenders	**09-05-2025 through KPP Portal only on or before 16.00 hours**
9.	Opening of Technical Bids	**12-05-2025**
10.	Opening of Financial Bids	**16-05-2025**

Further any other information can be seen from the kpp portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- **Shivshankar Kamshetty**
Executive Engineer,
PWD Divn., Bidar

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka,
Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:**bnuregevl@karnataka.gov.in**
Date: 29.04.2025

Short Term E-tender Notification

The Registrar(Evl), Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the Various Tenders listed below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act,the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the website: **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29.04.2025**

(1) Printing and Supply of Main Answer Booklets to Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar- **Tender no: BNU/2025-26/IND0041.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR(Evl)
Bengaluru North University
Tamaka, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:41/KSMCA/2025-26

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KOLLEGAL
CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT

No.: MUNI/KGL/E.S/TENDER/CR/10/2024-25 DATE : 25-04-2025
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ನಂ : ಮುನಿ/ಕೊನಸ/ತಾ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/10/2024–25

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP portal only)

The City Municipal Commissioner, Kollegal Chamarajanagar District, invites e-procurement short term tender from eligible contractors under Kw-2 document Under Work details as follows. **1) Name of Work :** Construction of Grey water filtration plant in Shankanapura, Mudigunda, Anagagalli, Devanga Burial ground and Naidu Thoda extension in CMC Kollegal limits under 2024-25 15th Finance tied Grants (DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT 30149/CALL-3) **Estimate Cost : 50.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount : 84,280.00. Period of Completion : 03 Months. Last date for uploading of completed tender documents : 15-05-2025 at 5.30 P.M. Last date of receiving tender 15.05.2025 at 5.30 P.M.,** Date of opening of tenders technical bids : 17.05.2025 at 11.00 A.M. & Date of opening of Financial bids : Informed after Successful technical Bid contractors, Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from e-procurement platform (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** EMD and tender processing fees shall also be paid electronically.

DIPR : CHANAGAR:40:2025-26 **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,** City Municipal Council, Kollegal

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THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short Description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 694/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	No. 77, PID No. 91-33-77, Pottery Tow Layout (William's Town), Civil Station, Bangalore-46. Measuring East to West 30 ft, North to South 57 ft 6 inches Total 1725 Sq.ft (Total 5 Apartments)Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ 1JsBueaXDbQfo6LR8			
(a)	Ground Floor, Flat No. GF-01, UDS-350.75, SBA-1525 Sq.ft	92,50,000/-	9,25,000/-	93,000/-
(b)	1st Floor, Flat No. FF-01, UDS-350.75, SBA-1525 Sq.ft	94,00,000/-	9,40,000/-	94,000/-
(c)	2nd Floor, Flat No. SF-01, UDS-350.75, SBA-1525 Sq.ft	95,00,000/-	9,50,000/-	95,000/-
(d)	3rd Floor, Flat No.TF-01, UDS-350.75, SBA-1525 Sq.ft	93,00,000/-	9,30,000/-	93,000/-
(e)	4th Floor, Flat No.FF-01, UDS-322, SBA-1400 Sq.ft	93,00,000/-	9,30,000/-	93,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
3rd June 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**4th June 2025, 11:00am to 05:00pm**	**6th June 2025, Before 5pm**	**9th June 2025, 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Date: 23-04-2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
DIPR/CP/419/Zen/2025-26 **(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client is negotiating to purchase all that property described in the Schedule herein from **SRI. PRAHLAD RAO S/o Prabhakar Rao,** who claims to be the owner of the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY.**
Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof and in any manner whatsoever against the Schedule Property based on the documents pertaining to the Schedule Property or objecting for the proposed Sale may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Site No. 304** (THREE HUNDRED AND FOUR), said site is carved on the land bearing Sy.No. 3/1 and entire layout has been formed on the various converted lands bearing Survey Numbers 1/1, 3/1, 3/2, 3/3, 3/5, 4/2, 15/1, 15/2, 15/6, 15/7, 16/2, 16/3, 16/4A, 16/4, in all measuring about 22 Acres 3.70 (excluding 0-05 guntas of kharab land) which lands are situated at Agrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Tauk, Bangalore presently situated within BBMP jurisdiction No.5 (Jakkur), and the layout is known as **"JAYASURYA NAGAR - THIRD PHASE"** and the layout is duly approved by Bangalore Development Authority vide its order bearing No. BDA/TPM/PRL- 18/2013-14/208/2018-19 dated 03/10/2018 and the site is measuring from East to West:11.57+11.66/2 Mtrs (38+38.3/2 Feet), North to South:6.00+6.19/2 Mtrs (19.8+20.4/2 Feet) and Measuring in all: 70.78 Sq Mtrs or 761.89 Sft and is bounded as follows:

East by : Road;
West by : Sy No.4/1;
North by : Park;
South by : Site No.303.

HARSHAVARDHAN. R, Advocate.
"DHARMA LEGAL CONSULTANTS"
No.1608, Ground Floor, BDA Layout, 1st Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 8861959191, 8317350074,
Email: dharmalegalconsultant@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of public are hereby notified that our Client is interested to purchase for consideration Agricultural land measuring about 1-08 guntas equivalent 52272 sq.ft. in Sy. No.20/4 of Sagyasarguru Village, Halaguru Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District, being the Schedule Property described here under from **Smt. Tayamma W/o Sri. Puttaswamy Gowda,** who has represented to be the sole and absolute owner in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property free from encumbrance.
Any persons having or purporting to have any rights, title, claims, interests, demands whatsoever with respect to the Schedule Property or any portions thereof & also with respect to the common road access in the same Sy.No. 20/4 from the Sagya Main Road, shall lodge their claim with documents to the undersigned with within **15 days** from the publication of this notice & prove their claims. Any objections /claims received thereafter will not be entertained. If no objections or claims of whatso--ever are received & substantiated within the said time then our clients will proceed for purchasing the schedule Property free from encumbrance.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of the Agriculture land measuring 1-08 Guntas, equivalent to 52272 square feet in the Sy.No.20/4 of Sagyasarguru Village, Halaguru Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District, bounded on-

East by: Sarkari Halla/ Government Nala
West by: Kempamma W/o.Devegowda's land
North by:Shivamma W/o.Madegowda's Land
South by:Shivaraju S/o. Kunduregowda's land

RAJARAM GAONKAR- ADVOCATE,
No.87 (Old), New No.13, 5th Main, N.R. Colony, B'lore- 560004 **Mob: 87625-17668 / 98450-93753**
Date: 30/04/2025

GBA area to span up to 1,000 sq. km

Proposed area will fall between current limits of BBMP and BDA, which oversees planning across 1,219 sq. km

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The expansion will mark a major step in urban integration, significantly increasing the jurisdiction beyond the current 709 sq. km governed by the BBMP. FILE PHOTO

The State government is preparing to bring several peripheral villages under the newly proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), potentially expanding the civic area up to 1000 sq. km. This expansion would mark a major step in urban integration, significantly increasing the jurisdiction beyond the current 709 sq. km governed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

According to official sources, multiple meetings have taken place in recent days involving senior bureaucrats and members of Brand Bengaluru Committee to discuss the delineation of GBA's boundaries. These meetings were held days after Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot gave his assent to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024, the legislation aimed at restructuring metropolitan governance.

As part of the restructuring, the State government is also considering dividing the BBMP into three and five municipal corporations, aiming to decentralise administration and improve delivery of civic services.

Talking to *The Hindu*, a source who attended a key planning meeting held on Monday revealed that the proposed GBA area would fall between the current limits of the BBMP and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which presently oversees planning across 1219 sq. km.

With Bengaluru experiencing rapid expansion driven by inward migration and large-scale investments, many outlying villages have effectively become part of the city's continuous urban sprawl. The government plans to bring at least 25 of these villages under GBA's administrative ambit to harness their revenue potential and provide them with better urban infrastructure.

Under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024, the GBA will assume the role of the local planning authority for the designated area. While the BDA will continue to function, its role will shift to supporting planning assessments and providing expert inputs under the broader GBA framework. Final approval of all planning proposals will rest with the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC)—the apex metropolitan planning body.

To accommodate GBA's expanded role, the BMPC's jurisdiction will also be broadened, covering a significantly larger area to be formally notified by the State government. This area will include the limits of the newly formed GBA and possibly more regions depending on future urban development needs.

The demarcation of boundaries for the GBA and the new corporations will take into account multiple factors such as population density, existing infrastructure, and revenue potential. A careful delimitation of wards is also being planned to ensure balanced resource distribution and to mitigate fiscal disparities between the proposed corporations.

HC directs BSWML to complete tender to choose contractors for city's SWM within four months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While allowing the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) to continue its tender invited on November 7, 2024, for handling city's solid wastes, the High Court of Karnataka has permitted the contractors, who were either disqualified or their bids were rejected and have filed petitions before the court, to participate in the tender.

Also, the court directed the State government, the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and BSWML, which is the government-owned company to execute solid waste management (SWM) projects of the BBMP, to redraw the timeline for present tender and complete it within an outer limit of four months, if not earlier.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while disposing of a batch of petitions filed by Sri Banashankari Enterprises and other contractors, who have questioned either rejection of their bids and their disqualification in the tender process initiated in 2022-23, in their multiple rounds of litigation since the first tender invited by BSWML in August 2022.

While some of the petitioner-contractors have also sought discontinuation of the tender invited on November 7, 2024, when these petitions were being adjudicated and wanted continuation of the tender invited in January 2023 after recalling the first tender invited on August 28, 2022.

Inflated bids

The government and the BSWML during July-September 2024, after informing the court, had decided to cancel tender invited in January 2023 citing excessively high tender premium quoted by bidders (in the range from 12% to 82% above the tendered amount), changes in market conditions rendering initial quoted rates during 2022-23 potentially having become invalid, and changes need in tender conditions for timely and effective SWM.

However, the contractors had contended that the authorities recalling the tenders and reissuing them repeatedly for extraneous reasons, and reasons projected for cancellation of tender with particular reference to economic viability, is a ruse to recall the earlier tender and continue with the fresh tender. Some of the contractors even wanted the Court to assess the price quoted earlier and now, and the reserve price then and the reserve price now.

Apex court judgement

However, citing apex court's judgements on powers of the courts to interfere in tender matters, Justice Nagaprasanna said that the Court can mainly interfere in tender when there is arbitrariness but in the present case no right has evolved for any contractor for the court to interject the tender as no successful bidder was notified so far.

The court said cancellation of the earlier tender was "based on sound reasoning and does not suffer from palpable or demonstrable arbitrariness."

Lokayukta raps BBMP over poor waste management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta on Tuesday pulled up the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) over systemic failures in solid waste management across multiple zones, following suo motu complaints and photographic evidence of garbage mismanagement in city.

During a hearing held on April 28 focused on the East, South, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and Dasarahalli zones, Lokayukta said the enquiry revealed widespread inefficiencies, including black spots, uncleared garbage piles, and failure to adhere to waste segregation norms. Senior officials including Zonal Commissioners and Joint Commissioners appeared before the Lokayukta.

Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil directed BBMP to file a detailed report on steps taken to ensure scientific waste disposal. Criticising the functioning of officials, the Lokayukta instructed them to reform their work ethic and take proactive measures. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. Chief Operations Officer Ramamani V. L. promised to increase the number of engineers and initiate tenders to procure more waste transport vehicles.

The BBMP also informed during the hearing that property tax stickers now inc lude waste management cess. The Lokayukta ordered the BBMP to remove all black spots by the next hearing and enforce strict measures to stop indiscriminate dumping. Specific issues at Yeshwanthpur's railway tracks were raised, with the Lokayukta demanding a status report from BBMP and coordination with the railway authorities to remove waste. Additionally, the BBMP was told to eliminate early morning garbage collection to avoid inconvenience to public.

Three city institutions among winners of AMR challenge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

C-CAMP said they received about 200 applications from innovators and start-ups across India for funding and ecosystem support to scale up production, and societal integration. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three Bengaluru-based institutions, including the Indian Institute of Science, are among the winners of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) Challenge 2024-25.

C-CAMP said the national AMR Challenge was launched in August 2024. They received about 200 applications from innovators and start-ups across India for funding and ecosystem support to enable scale up, production, adoption and societal integration of winning solutions to tackle AMR in the environment.

Nine winners

Of them, nine were declared winners of the C-CAMP AMR Challenge 2024-25. The winners are: Indian Institute of Science, Foundation for Neglected Diseases Research, Biomoneta Research Private Limited, D-NOME Private Limited, Vividew Innovations Private Limited, Diagopreutic Private Limited, Mylab Discovery Solutions Private Limited, Huwel Life Sciences Private Limited, and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeeth.

Nature of support

The winners will be supported by C-CAMP in India in collaboration with the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Global AMR Innovation Fund to foster the identification and development of world-class AMR-focused innovative solutions to tackle various aspects of AMR in the environment in India, and for the benefit of low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

"Antimicrobial resistance in the environment is a serious issue because of unchecked effluents from agriculture and industry reaching our water bodies, air and land. The problem has assumed alarming proportions across the entire world. I am heartened to see that innovators and scientists in India are developing cutting-edge innovations that hold promise not only in India and LMICs, but for the world," said Prof. Ajay K. Sood, principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

Bhaskar Nagendrappa appointed president of CREDAI Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bhaskar T. Nagendrappa has been appointed president of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) Karnataka for the 2025-2027 term. He succeeds Pradeep D. Raikar.

With prior experience as president of CREDAI Bengaluru (2021-2023) and president-elect of CREDAI Karnataka, Bhaskar has played a key role in shaping policy and fostering growth. He has also served nationally as chairman of the Skill Development Committee of CREDAI.

"By 2027, our focus will be on promoting sustainable development, strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, and driving innovation in the real estate sector. We aim to establish CREDAI Karnataka as a key contributor to CREDAI's national decision-making process," Mr. Bhaskar said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and CREDAI dignitaries were part of the handover ceremony.

CREDAI Karnataka's new leadership includes Dharmendra B. Mehta as president-elect, Uday Shankar Shetty as vice president - North, D. Srihari, as vice president - South; Mahaveer S. Mehta as secretary, Mamta Bharaktiya as joint secretary; Panchakshari S. Hiremath as joint secretary - North; Arun Pandit L as joint secretary - South and Dhanraj Talampally as treasurer.

High Court extends deadline to stop bike taxi operations till June 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday extended till June 15 the deadline given to the transport technology aggregators Rapido, Ola, and Uber for stopping their bike taxi services.

"On a complete reading of the circumstances and the grounds urged... this court is inclined to extend the timeline until June 15, so that there is no precipitation and there is a reasonable opportunity to all," the court said while modifying its April 2 directions.

Justice B.M. Shyam Prasad passed the order on the interlocutory applications filed by Rapido, Ola, and Uber seeking an extension of the six-week deadline to stop their bike taxies by May 14.

The aggregators have told the court that they would require more time to make alternative arrangements. FILE PHOTO

The aggregators pointed out to the court that their representation given State government for framing of policy allowing the operation of bike taxis is pending consideration before the authorities.

On framing policy

Roppen Transportation Services Pvt. Ltd., which operates Rapido services, stated in its application that it had filed a representation before the Chief Secretary for framing a policy on the lines of policies framed by other States to allow operation of bike taxies and the Chief Secretary has held a meeting with the stakeholders on April 23 on the issue. It was pointed out to the court that there is a general expectation that their request to frame policy for the operation of bike taxis would be considered if the court extends the deadline by another six weeks.

The aggregators also told the court that considering the number of persons currently engaged as bike-taxi riders, it would require more time to make alternative arrangements, as Rapido alone has around six lakh bike taxis registered in Karnataka, and these riders are depending on these vehicles for their livelihood. However, the State Advocate General opposed the extension of the deadline while pointing out that a meeting may have been convened but the expectation of a particular decision may not be justified.

Earlier order

In its April 2 order, the court had said that unless the State government notifies relevant guidelines under Section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Rules, the petitioners-aggregators cannot operate as aggregators offering bike taxi services and the Transport Department, cannot be issued with directions to register motorcycles as transport vehicles or issue contract carriage permits for using them as bike taxies.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 30	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:34
RISE 08:01	SET 21:30
THURSDAY, MAY. 01	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:35
RISE 09:04	SET 22:34
FRIDAY, MAY. 02	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:35
RISE 10:07	SET 23:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	34	24

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds at few places.

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THE HINDU
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THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

KVS REGIONAL SPORTS MEET 2025

PM SHRI KV MEG & Centre, Bengaluru inaugurated the 54th KVS Regional Sports Meet 2025 for Kabaddi and Boxing with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The event saw participation from 128 Kabaddi Under-17 Boys and 34 Boxing entrants. Chief Guest Smt Hema K, Assistant Commissioner, KVS RO Bengaluru, declared the meet open and praised students for embracing physical activity over digital distractions. Principal Shri Lokesh Bihari Sharma welcomed the schools, encouraging sportsmanship. An oath was led by student Subham Singh, and colourful balloons were released to symbolise unity. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Harikiran.

AZVASA HOLISTIC LEARNING LAUNCHED

Samsidh Schools has partnered with Azvasa Educational Services and Tata ClassEdge to launch 'Azvasa Holistic Learning with Tata ClassEdge Imprints', aiming to redefine values-based education. Announced at a special event, the partnership includes Tata ClassEdge acquiring a 26% equity stake in Azvasa, reflecting a long-term commitment. The initiative introduces digital tools like Tata Study and Early Edge to enhance personalised learning, teacher training, and parent engagement. All campuses will now operate under the identity 'Samsidh – Holistic Learning with Tata Imprints'. Key dignitaries included Tarun Bhojwani, Baldeepsingh Saggu, Arijit De, Vasa Srinivasa Rao, and Madhavi Vasa.

EDUTAINMENT AT ITS BEST FOR YOUNG READERS

Young World Club is a fun-filled online edutainment portal, from The Hindu, packed with rich multimedia content to make learning fun. It offers children new ways to learn through its interactive sections on Think, Read, Do, Travel, Play, and Change. The content is presented in various interactive formats such as quizzes, crosswords, sliders, puzzles, dialog cards, flash cards, presentations, videos, games, timelines, and so on. Exclusively curated for children of ages 8-15, this web platform offers children new ways to understand diverse topics.

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CACHE

New ventures: Union Minister Piyush Goyal meets a delegation from Starlink in New Delhi on April 16. ANI

Starlink's India struggle: spectrum, surveillance, and connectivity

Starlink's regulatory experience in India offers critical insights into the delicate interplay between innovation, law, and sovereignty. It underscores the importance of early, structured dialogue between technology providers and government regulators

Shrawani Shagun

The vast rural expanses of India are often overshadowed by the country's urban-centric digital growth; digital isolation has long stifled progress. Starlink's ambitious satellite network now promises to turn night into day, literally and figuratively, by beaming high-speed internet across terrains where cables don't reach and towers don't exist. But as this technological advance prepared to bridge the digital divide, it became entangled in a complex web of legal, regulatory, and security challenges. At stake today is not just the rollout of a service but a broader question: can the innovation Starlink represents navigate tradition and sovereignty to bring rural and urban India closer together?

Which regulations apply to Starlink?

In its endeavour to provide satellite-based internet services in India, Starlink must navigate a complex legal and regulatory landscape. The cornerstone of this landscape is the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) licence from the Department of Telecommunications as required by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

Section 4 of the Act grants the Union government the exclusive privilege to establish and operate telegraphs (interpreted broadly to include modern communication technologies like VSAT) and empowers it to issue licences. Section 7 further authorises the government to frame rules governing such licences.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 established the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which plays an advisory and regulatory role. Section 11 outlines TRAI's functions, including making recommendations on licensing terms, spectrum management, and ensuring fair competition, thus significantly shaping the regulatory environment for Starlink.

The newer Telecommunications Act, 2023 governs the allocation of satellite spectrum. While it permits administrative allocation, it also requires Starlink to adhere to the security and pricing norms it outlines. Starlink's use of Ku-and Ka-band frequencies is subject to the telecom department's spectrum regulations, which are aligned with International Telecommunication Union standards to prevent interference with other services.

The Satellite Communications Policy, 2000 and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) under the Department of Space further require Starlink to coordinate satellite operations and orbital slot use to avoid conflicts with Indian Space Research Organisation assets, and to align with national space priorities.

Finally, the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 impose obligations related to encryption, data storage, and cybersecurity. National security concerns require Starlink to comply with directives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and intelligence agencies, which may include requirements such as real-time signal tracking and user verification.

Why hasn't Starlink entered India yet?

Several interlinked factors are contributing to delays in Starlink receiving its operational permits in India. First, obtaining a VSAT licence under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 involves rigorous technical and financial assessments by the telecom department, often requiring inter-ministerial consultation.

Second, although the Telecommunications Act, 2023 enables the administrative allocation of satellite spectrum, the pricing and conditions – especially for Ku and Ka bands – are still being negotiated between the department and the TRAI.

Third, a thorough security clearance process led by the Home Ministry and intelligence agencies is underway, complicated by concerns about foreign ownership and potential misuse. These agencies require extensive assurances on data protection and lawful usage before giving the green light.

Fourth, coordination with Indian space infrastructure under IN-SPACe and compliance with the Satellite Communications Policy, 2000 adds further procedural requirements.

All these delays have tangible consequences such as Starlink increasing operational costs and delaying market entry, potentially deterring investor confidence. Nonetheless, Starlink could transform connectivity once operational in India's remotest regions, reinforcing the need for an enabling regulatory ecosystem.

Has Starlink misuse affected its security clearance?

Reports alleging the misuse of Starlink devices for illegal activities may have likely escalated concerns within India's security establishment. Such instances, isolated or widespread, could trigger a more stringent vetting process, requiring Starlink to implement robust safeguards such as encrypted data flows, lawful interception capabilities, and enhanced user verification mechanisms.

Compliance with the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 will be scrutinised as well.

Such reports may also strain trust between SpaceX, Starlink's developer, and Indian regulators and increase the time taken to reach consensus on operating conditions. However, proactive engagement and transparency from SpaceX – such as demonstrating technological safeguards and a commitment to collaborate with Indian authorities – could help rebuild that trust and mitigate delays.

What will Starlink cost in India?

Starlink's pricing in India remains speculative, but several indicators suggest the service may launch at a premium. The high capital cost of deploying low-earth orbit satellites combined with licensing and spectrum charges under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Telecommunications Act, 2023 will likely drive up initial service rates.

Equipment cost, comprising the user terminal (dish), router, and setup, could also be significant for households in rural India. Monthly subscription fees may remain out of reach for low-income communities unless supported by subsidies or government-backed digital inclusion initiatives.

Although positioned as a rural connectivity solution, the service may initially cater to institutions, businesses, and relatively affluent individuals in remote areas. Its edge lies in offering high-speed, low-latency internet where terrestrial service providers struggle. Over time, as economies of scale reduce hardware costs, affordability and access could improve if regulatory support emerges.

Why does Starlink matter?

Starlink's regulatory experience in India offers critical insights into the delicate interplay between innovation, law, and sovereignty.

It underscores the importance of early, structured dialogue between technology providers and government regulators, the need for globally agile companies to adapt to local frameworks, and the centrality of national security in shaping digital infrastructure policy. It also reminds us that spectrum, like sovereignty, is a finite national resource: its fair and efficient allocation demands a robust and forward-looking regime.

These lessons are especially pertinent as India positions itself as a global digital leader.

Welcoming technologies like Starlink while upholding sovereignty, security, and equity requires a regulatory environment that is transparent, predictable, and innovation-friendly.

However, perhaps more symbolically, Starlink's journey is not just about satellites and signals; it is about bridging divides. Satellite internet holds the potential to unify rural to urban not merely in connectivity but in opportunity, voice, and visibility.

Shrawani Shagun is pursuing a PhD at National Law University, Delhi, focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz on some of the interesting events that happened on April 30

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Which U.S. President was inaugurated on this day in 1789?

QUESTION 2
This French modernist painter died on this day in 1883. His early works include *The Luncheon on the Grass* and *Olympia*. Name the painter.

QUESTION 3
Willem-Alexander became king of this country in 2013, after his mother, Queen Beatrix, abdicated. Which country?

QUESTION 4
This Italian filmmaker died at 60 on this day. He is known for his masterpiece *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. Name the filmmaker.

QUESTION 5
This politician was one of the most infamously popular ones in recent history. He died by suicide on this day in 1945. Who was he?

Visual question:
Identify this filmmaker from the mural.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Alexander Lukashenko is the premier of this country. **Ans: Belarus**
2. This President of this Latin American country is set to serve a full four-year term after winning the run-off round this month. **Ans: Daniel Noboa; Ecuador**
3. This Caribbean country held its parliamentary election on Monday. **Ans: Trinidad and Tobago**
4. This military leader won the presidential election held in this country. **Ans: Brice Oligui Nguema; Gabon**
5. Name the European country that went to polls early this year. **Ans: Germany**
Visual: Name this leader and the semi-autonomous territory from where he was elected head of government in March this year. **Ans: Jens-Frederik Nielsen; Greenland**
Early Birds: Erfanally Oosmany| Sunil Madhavan| Fathima Niloofar| Christabel Royan| Tamal Biswas

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Which university did your father go to?"
"My father? He went to Osmania University."
"He went to Osmania University? Shouldn't you say, he went to the Osmania University?"
"Not really. You see, if the name of the university comes first then you don't use 'the'. For example, my uncle studied at Harvard University and my grandfather at Oxford University."
"I see. But I'd have to say, I studied at the University of Hyderabad."
"That's right. Every time the name begins with 'university', then you need to use the article 'the' before it. For example, my friend studies at the University of Georgia and his sister studies at the University of Michigan."
"My cousin studies at Anna University, but my friend studies at the University of Bombay. Is that correct?"
"Perfect!"
"But what about colleges? Does the same rule apply to colleges as well?"
"Yes, it does. If the name of the college begins with the word 'college', then you need to use 'the'. For example, my uncle teaches at the College of Engineering. His wife teaches in St. Anne's College."
"The College of Education is a five minute walk from my house."
"Looks like someone has put a hex on it."
"A what?"
"A 'hex'. It rhymes with the words 'sex', 'wrecks' and 'pecks'. When you put a 'hex' on someone, you put a spell on them so that it brings them bad luck."
"In other words you curse them! Is that correct?"
"I guess you could say that. For example, the evil queen put a hex on the entire kingdom."
"Can I say, when Mohan suddenly took ill, his grandmother thought that somebody had put a hex on him."
"Good example. And remember, you always 'put a hex' on someone."
"Well, nobody needs to put a hex on my school! It's in pretty shape right now."
"That's true. Nobody would put a hex on your crummy little school."
"My what school?"
"Crummy little school! 'Crum' rhymes with the words 'from' and 'drum'. And the... "
"..but what does the word mean?"
"I'm coming to that. When you refer to something as being 'crummy', it means 'that it is of very bad quality'. For example, my friend in Bombay lives in a crummy little flat."
"Many people in Bombay live in crummy little flats. Can I say, my friend drives around in a crummy little scooter?"
"You can. But you must remember, that 'crummy' is an informal word and cannot be used in all contexts."
"Thanks for telling me. Well, I'd better get going. I have a lot of homework to do."
"The crummy school gives a lot of homework?"
"Which crummy school doesn't? Maybe, we should put a hex on all teachers!"
"Talk to the students union!"
Published in The Hindu on April 30, 1996.

Word of the day

Gloaming:
The time of day immediately following sunset

Synonyms: dusk, fall, twilight

Usage: *Light fell into the room from the gloaming outside.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/gloamingpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈgləʊ.mɪŋ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

The deal allows full-train wrapping and interior advertising, turning metro coaches into mobile canvases for brand promotions.
FILE PHOTO

BMRCL signs 7-year ad deals for Purple and Green line trains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to boost non-fare revenue, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has entered into seven-year agreements with Mudra Ventures and Lokesh Outdoor for advertising rights on its Purple and Green Line trains, respectively.

The deal allows full-train wrapping and interior advertising, turning metro coaches into mobile canvases for brand promotions. BMRCL expects a minimum annual revenue of ₹25 crore from these partnerships, according to a release.

Highlighting the initiative, BMRCL Managing Director M. Maheshwar Rao, said, "Through this partnership, BMRCL remains committed to offering world-class metro services while leveraging new-age business opportunities to ensure financial sustainability and continued infrastructure development for the city."

> BMRCL remains committed to offering world-class metro services while leveraging new-age business opportunities
>
> **M. MAHESHWAR RAO**
> MD BMRCL

Case registered after city college gets hoax bomb threat email

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladevanahalli police have initiated a probe to track down the person who sent a hoax bomb threat email to Acharya Institutes on Tuesday.

Police carried out anti-sabotage checks following the email and ruled it to be a hoax.

Based on Manish Kumar Thakur's complaint, the college's Chief Operating Officer, the police have registered an FIR against an unknown person, charging him for criminal intimidation committed anonymously. The police are now analysing the IP address from which the mail was generated.

It may be recalled that three prominent colleges in western Bengaluru received similar hoax bomb threat emails last week.

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With extension till May 21, DG&IGP gets two-year tenure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alok Mohan

In a significant move that will have a long-term impact for years to come, the State government has extended the service of Alok Mohan, the incumbent Director General and Inspector General (DG&IGP), Karnataka State Police, till May 21, to ensure he gets a two-year tenure. Otherwise, he would have retired on April 30.

First in State

This is the first such case in the State where the service of the DG&IGP has been extended to ensure a minimum of two years' tenure.

This will become a precedent, and those who follow Alok Mohan as Heads of Police Force (HoPF) in Karnataka, but have less than two years' service left from the date they take charge, will likely benefit from this move.

SC guidelines

A tenure of a minimum of two years was part of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Prakash Singh case that led to police reforms in the country. Following the Supreme Court order, the Government of Karnataka brought an amendment to the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, adding a clause that the DG&IGP shall have a tenure of not less than two years "subject to superannuation". Even as this clause stays on the books to this day, the government submitted an affidavit to the Supreme Court in 2019-20, where it gave an undertaking that it would implement the Prakash Singh case judgement.

After this affidavit, Neelmani N. Raju and Praveen Sood, who headed the State's police force, had over two years' service before retirement. So the question of extension beyond their superannuation did not arise.

However, this question came to the fore with Alok Mohan having a less than two-year tenure. Even as Mr. Sood was appointed Director, Central Investigation Bureau (CBI), Mr. Mohan took charge as in-charge DG&IGP of the state police on May 21, 2023. His appointment was confirmed on August 5, 2023.

The State government has now considered May 21, when he took charge as in-charge DG&IGP to calculate a two-year tenure.

Next DG&IGP: Panel of senior officers sent to UPSC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has sent a panel of all senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers of the State cadre who have completed a total of 30 years of service to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), to choose the next DG&IGP on Tuesday.

The government expects the selection process to be completed by May 21.

The list includes five Director General of Police (DGP) rank officers Prashanth Kumar Thakur, M.A. Saleem, K. Ramachandra Rao, Malini Krishnamurthy, Pronab Mohanty and two Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) rank officers Alok Kumar and B. Dayananda.

Two held for running cricket betting racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hanumanthanagar police have uncovered an online cricket betting racket and arrested two bookies who were operating the racket through a Philippines-based online betting site.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police tracked down the bookies and caught them red-handed while they were busy with the punters during the ongoing IPL T-20 matches.

The accused confessed to the police that they were operating the racket through dafabet.com, an online betting website placing the bets online through the punters.

Cash, mobile seized

The police have seized ₹4,100 in cash and a mobile phone.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Smt. G.SHANTHA,** W/o K. Gangadhar, Aged about 42 years, R/at No.28/2, 13 th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560 002, is intend to purchase immovable property bearing formerly site No.19/A, present corporation No.1/4, Old PID No.77-101-1/4 situated at Sreekantan Layout, Vasanthnagar, Crescent Road, High Grounds, Bangalore – 560 001 within the limits of the Ward No. 93 Vasanthnagar of BBMP, together with the residential building therein totally measuring East to West : on the Northern side : 59 feet and on the Southern side : 58 feet and North to South : on the eastern side : 37 feet & 6 inches and on the western side : 36 feet & 6 inches totally measuring 2168 Sq Ft are bounded on: **East by :** Compound wall of the House known as "Shanthi" now belonging to K V Nayak, **West by :** Road, **North by:** Property belonging to K.Rudraiah, **South by:** Property belonging to S.Sathyadev, and entered into sale agreement from its owner **Sri. K.Jayaram,** S/o Late G.Krishnappa & Smt.Sarojamma, Aged about 68 years, R/a No.1/A, New No.1/4, Srikantan Layout, Highgrounds, Bangalore – 560 001. **If anybody is having any right, title, claim, interest or** objections for the same, **may file their objections with documents before the undersigned** within 7 days **from this date, failing which my client will proceed further.**

BHARATH KUMAR V, Advocate
No. 4/2, 2nd Floor, Shamsuddin Block, HHS & HMS Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-560002 M:9485629337
email : bharath.advocates@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: 05/2025/SBC Dated : 25-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.
Description in brief : Supply of Infra-Red Thermo Vision Camera along with image analysis & report generation software accessories.
AMC for Infra-Red Thermo Vision Camera along with image analysis & report generation software accessories.
(Tender No. L8255137A) (Qty : 13 No's)
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 20-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/76/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertising and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division.
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following dates:
1. Catering & MPS stalls : 19-05-2025, 20-05-2025, 21-05-2025, 22-05-2025, 23-05-2025
2. Parking & Pay and Use : 05-05-2025, 06-05-2025, 07-05-2025, 08-05-2025
3. Parcel : 12-05-2025
4. Advertising ATM & Misc : 02-05-2025, 05-05-2025, 07-05-2025, 08-05-2025, 09-05-2025, 15-05-2025, 16-05-2025, 26-05-2025, 27-05-2025, 28-05-2025, 29-05-2025, 30-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru
PUB/71/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. CR-SUR-SNT-P-PSSA-2025-26 Date: 25.04.2025 Dy. CSTE/Project Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works **Name of work with its locality**: Providing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for the work of 1. Survey, design, supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of stationary KAVACH equipment and other associated works over the jurisdiction of Solapur Division of Central Railway & 2. Survey, design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of TOWERS for Kavach and other associated works over Central Railway of Solapur division. **Approximate cost of the work**: Rs. 5,74,86,008.49. **Cost of the Tender form**: NIL. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 4,87,500/-. **Completion period of the work**: 66 Months. **Date and Time of closing of tender**: 20.05.2025 after 15:00 hrs. The details are available in ireps website.Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in.**
APEX-57 **Dy. CSTE/Poject/ Solapur**
असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from Sri. V. Govindaiah, S/o Venkataramanaiah, Sri. A.V. Shivaramaiah, S/o Venkataramanaiah and Smt. Venkatamma, D/o Venktaramanaiah, W/o Gangaiah and others are joint owners and in peaceful possession of the schedule property which is free from all encumbrances. That is based on the said representation my client is intending to purchase the property. If any other person/s has/have got any nature of right, claims or interest over the schedule property be lodged with supporting documents to the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of this publication. If the undersigned do not receive any claim within the stipulated period, my client will proceed to purchase the property treating that there is no claim over the schedule property by any person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy No. 78/1 (old Sy.No. 78), situated at Arebommanahalli Village, Thyamagondlu-2 Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring about 0-12.08 Guntas (Twelve Point Zero Eight Guntas) Excluding 0-00.04 Gunta Poot Karab, and the land is bounded on the: East by : Road, West by : Land of Timmappa, North by : Sy.No. 64 and Govt Hill, South by : Land of Vishwesh Pandurang Shanbhag.
RAVI A BELAGATTI, Advocate
No.24, IV Model House Street, Basavangudi, Bengaluru- 560 004. M.: 9901578210

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/L/T/2024/28R2 Name of work:** Annual Maintenance Contract of AC package unit of various make fitted on LHB type AC coaches of roof mounted design of Solapur Division for a period of two years (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost:** Rs. 2,17,65,593.59 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,58,800.00/- **Completion Period:**24 Months **Validity of offer:** 90 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 23/05/2025 at 15.00 hours.
SR. DEE (General) Central Railway, Solapur
APEX-58
असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 012.
Phone: 080-23 460 460 (5 Lines)
E-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No: ED/KEA/REC/CR- 01/2025 **Date: 25-04-2025**

PGCET-2025 - Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Arch Courses

1) Onlne Applications are invited from the eligible interested Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates for admission to 1st year / 1st semester full time / part time MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Arch courses in the institutions affiliated Universities which will be notified by the Government of Karnataka for the year 2025-26.
2) Candidates have to appear for the Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2025 conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority to become eligible for admission to (**MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech** courses) as per 2005 and 2011 PGCET rules and its amendments.
3) For admission to M. Arch course, the marks obtained in the PGETA 2025 (exam conducted by Council of Architecture, New Delhi) will be only considered and KEA will not be conducting PGCET exam for M. Arch course.
4) **GATE qualified candidates in Engineering and Technology discipline are only eligible to take admission to Various M.Tech Programmes under VTU, Belgaum.** The candidates with valid GATE score should compulsorily enter application online to become eligible for admission to M.E. / M. Tech / M. Arch courses, **but they need not appear for PGCET-2025.**
5) For admission to M. Architecture courses, candidates should qualify in PGETA-2025 conducted by Council of Architecture, New Delhi. Candidates must compulsorily register for PGCET-2025 Karnataka, fill the online application and pay the fees to become eligible to participate in the KEA counselling.
6) For admission to MBA / MCA courses, non-Karnataka candidates are eligible to select ONLY the seats surrendered by the management, if any.
7) Please note that SC / ST / OBC eligibility criteria are applicable to Karnataka SC / ST / OBC candidates only.
8) **Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2025 - Time Table.**
The Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2025 Time Table is as follows

Date	Timings	Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester	Number of Questions	Total Marks	Method of Exam
31-05-2025 SATURDAY	2.30 PM to 4.30 PM	M.E. / M. Tech *	100	100	PGCET will be conducted through OMR. Question paper will be of Objective Multiple Choice type.
*Date and the mode of conducting the PGCET for M. Tech. Computer Science subject will be notified later in the KEA Website. For other subjects PGCET-2025 will be OMR based exam.					
22-06-2025 SUNDAY	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM	MCA	100	100	
	2.30 PM to 4.30 PM	MBA	100	100	

(Non-programmable calculators are allowed for M.E. / M. Tech examination only)
Note: KEA will not conduct PGCET-2025 examination for admission to M. Arch Course.
9) SYLLABUS: **PGCET-2025** syllabus is hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates.
10) Interested and eligible candidates can register and apply online for **PGCET-2025 from 11.00 AM onwards on 25-04-2025 upto 11.59 PM on 10-05-2025.** Fees has to be paid by the registered and applied candidate **on or before 12-05-2025 6.00 PM.** Only after confirmation of receipt of payment of fees, candidates will be permitted to download the Admission Tickets for PGCET-2025 exam.
11) Before registering through online for admission to PG courses, applicants have to compulsorily read Information Bulletin, detailed notification and understand the eligibility conditions, educational qualification, classification of seats and eligibility to claim such seats hosted on the KEA Website.
12) All the admissions and undergraduate Degrees to claim eligibility for admission to any of the PG courses are subject to approval of the Government / VTU / other respective University.
13) Candidates are advised to visit KEA Website: **https://kea.kar.nic.in** for more details notification regarding admission rules, eligibility clauses and various schedules.

Sd/-
(H. Prasanna, IAS)
Executive Director
DIPR/CP/414/2025-26

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited for supply and fixing of PVC blinds with mechanism – 771.68 sq ft at Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in (procurement) for reference) can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.250/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 01 May 2025 to 07 May 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 08 May 2025 at 1130 hrs.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
Karur Vysya Bank – Smart way to bank
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd,** the constructive/physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **16.05.2025** for recovery of **Rs. 77,38,775.96/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Thirty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five and Paise Ninety Six only)** due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd",** Secured Creditor from **Mrs. Gorriparti Ramya,** residing at No.709, 4th floor, 12th cross, 1st Sector HSR Layout, Bangalore South-560102. The reserve price will be **Rs. 17,00,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs only)** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 1,70,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs Seventy Thousand only)**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Flat No. 205, on the Second Floor measuring super built up area of 1145.00 sq feet, at "MIYANS GREEN RESIDENCY", situated on Site Bearing No. 112, present Village Panchayath Property No. 15020010320020117l/240/112; dated: 30.03.2015, and on Site Bearing No. 113, present Village panchayath Property No. 15020010320020117l/240/113 dated: 30.03.2015, formed in B.M.R.D.A approved layout situated at "CELEBRITY LAKE VIEW", carved out of survey Nos. 56,72,73/2,74/1 & 74/2 of Rajapura Village, Jinagi Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Bounded on the: East By: Set Back, West By: Corridor, North By: Set Back, South By: Lift and Staircase.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/ Secured Creditor's website i.e **www.kvb.co.in/Property** Under Auction also at the web portal **BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**

Statutory 15 Days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 28.04.2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**

THE HINDU GROUP
*SPORTSTAR
DAY 40
INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE
Play now & start winning!

1. What is the name of the annual Twenty20 cricket tournament held in the West Indies?
2. Which team was the first to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup twice?
3. Nicknamed 'The Universe Boss,' who is the only player to score a triple century in Tests, a double century in ODIs, and a century in T20Is?

*T&C apply.
Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**
Yesterday's poster: Wasim Akram
Yesterday's Winners:
1. Sujay Koner, Kolkatta | 2. Thankama.J, Kollam | 3. Boopalan.M, Madurai

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI
BANK OF INDIA
Bengaluru Zone : # 11, 1st Floor, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-09.
T.: 080-2295 9407 / 08 | **E.:** bengaluru.ARD@bankofindia.co.in

NOTICE
Following vehicle is seized and to be sold in auction by inviting sealed tenders under "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" condition on**15-05-2025 @ 11.00 am, Place of auction: Bank of India HMT Godown Peenya. Date of Inspection - till 14-05-2025, Contact No. : 8073245835**
It is here by informed that the below mentioned borrowers has availed vehicle loan and failed to repay the same. The details of Borrower/s Guarantor/s Vehicle Details/s/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date, Time & EMD amount are mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower's Guarantor/s/	Description of Vehicle	Branch Name ; Account No. ; Outstanding Dues	Reserve Price ; EMD Amout ; EMD Account name ; EMD Account no. ; EMD IFSC
1	**Nagaraja DA** S/O Adinarayanappa Daraburu Mandikal Chikballapur Karnataka 562104	A) Registration Number : **KA40A7917** B) Engine Number : **VZJ6D42092** C) Chassis Number : **MA1NA2VZXJ6D44216** D) Model : **MAHINDRA TUV300 T4+ MHAWK100** E) Make : **MAHINDRA** F) Year : **2018**	BRANCH : **Chikballapur** A/c No. : **846372310000020** for recovery of **Rs.7,66,568.97 + upto date interest @ 10.35 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 18,000** EMD : **Rs. 1,800** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **846390200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008463**
2	**Srinivasa V** Ulibele (v) Burudugunte Chintamani Tq Chikkaballapur Dist Karnataka 562101	A) Registration Number : **KA40A7499** B) Engine Number : **VZJ6B21030** C) Chassis Number : **MA1NA2VZXJ6B43384** D) Model : **MAHINDRA TUV300 T4 PLUS MHAWK100 BS4** E) Make : **MAHINDRA** F) Year : **2018**	BRANCH : **Chikballapur** A/c No. : **846372310000014** for recovery of **Rs.4,73,929.28 + upto date interest @ 10.25 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **1,50,000** EMD : **15,000** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **846390200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008463**
3	**Tirumala Vegetable and Fruits (Owner Boraiah YG)** K Narayanapura Nanjappa Circle Kothanur Post Bangalore 560077	A) Registration Number : **KA04AC2789** B) Engine Number : **275IDI07NPYSF5558** C) Chassis Number : **MAT445075KZN55069** D) Model : **TATA Ace Gold BS IV** E) Make : **TATA** F) Year : **2019**	BRANCH : **Yeshwantpur** A/c No. : **840872310000090** for recovery of **Rs. 3,49,194.34 + upto date interest @ 10.35 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 2,00,000** EMD : **Rs. 20,000** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **840890200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008408**
4	**Ramya** 1st Main Road 2nd Block Sidlaghatta Taluk Jangamakote Chikkaballapur Bangalore 562102	A) Registration Number : **KA50MB2292** B) Engine Number : **K10CNC051335** C) Chassis Number : **MA3JMTB1SNC655920** D) Model : **Maruti Wagon R VXI CNG 5MT BS IV** E) Make : **Maruti Suzuki** F) Year : **2022**	BRANCH : **Yelahanka** A/c No. : **847760510000337** for recovery of **Rs. 5,84,522.2 + upto date interest @ 8.85 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 4,75,000** EMD : **Rs. 47,500** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **847790200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008477**
5	**Madhi K** 438 2nd Cross Anandapura Maragondanahalli K R Puram Bangalore 560036	A) Registration Number : **KA03AE6486** B) Engine Number : **TBPBFGV3003236** C) Chassis Number : **MBX0003HFVG481614** D) Model : **APE City LPG** E) Make : **Piaggio** F) Year : **2017**	BRANCH : **Banaswadi** A/c No. : **843772310000080** for recovery of **Rs. 145416.49 + upto date interest @ 10.25 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 13,500** EMD : **Rs. 1,350** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **843790200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008437**
6	**Nagaraj N** No 28 1st Block Akshaya Nagar R M Nagar Bangalore 560016	A) Registration Number : **KA03AE6487** B) Engine Number : **TBPBFFV3002889** C) Chassis Number : **MBX0003HFVG481314** D) Model : **APE City LPG** E) Make : **Piaggio** F) Year : **2017**	BRANCH : **Banaswadi** A/c No. : **843772310000081** for recovery of **Rs. 2,05,495.13 + upto date interest @ 10.25 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 18,000** EMD : **Rs. 1,800** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **843790200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008437**
7	**Ramesh BA** No 11 14th Main 6th Cross Sampangi Ram Nagar Bangalore 560027	A) Registration Number : **KA01AF8190** B) Engine Number : **D63028678** C) Chassis Number : **MC1E4CEA0GP039908** D) Model : **Force Traveller DI (HR) L BSIII** E) Make : **Force Motors** F) Year : **2016**	BRANCH : **City Engineering College** A/c No. : **896172310000009** for recovery of **Rs. 9,75,796.18 + upto date interest @ 12.15 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 1,50,000** EMD : **Rs. 15,000** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **896190200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008961**
8	**Shivanna** No 17/240 1st Cross Ashwath Layout Doddakalsandra Bangalore 560062	A) Registration Number : **KA05MS1444** B) Engine Number : **D4FCFM429125** C) Chassis Number : **MALBM51RLFM16466** D) Model : **Hyundai Elite I20 1.40 Asta** E) Make : **Hyundai Motors** F) Year : **2015**	BRANCH : **City Engineering College** A/c No. : **896160510000016** for recovery of **Rs. 3,87,495.1 + upto date interest @ 10.45 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 2,00,000** EMD : **Rs. 20,000** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **896190200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008961**
9	**Ramesh RG** No1359 Nagapura Mahalakshmipuram West Of Chord Road Bangalore 560086	A) Registration Number : **KA02MT4680** B) Engine Number : **F8DN6748202** C) Chassis Number : **MA3EUA61S00L10091** D) Model : **Maruti Suzuki ALTO LXI (O)** E) Make : **Maruti Suzuki** F) Year : **2022**	BRANCH : **Cantonment** A/c No. : **840460510000290** for recovery of **Rs. 3,63,400.19 + upto date interest @ 8.85 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price : **Rs. 2,72,000** EMD : **Rs. 27,200** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **840490200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008404**
10	**Fyroz** S/o Moinkaka Hyrige Villa Honnenahalli Po Hanagodu Hobli Hunsur Tq Mysore Dist 571105	A) Registration Number : **KA09ME9841** B) Engine Number : **K12MN4633470** C) Chassis Number : **MBHOWB22SKK374974** D) Model : **Toyota Glanza V (CVT)** E) Make : **Toyota** F) Year : **2019**	BRANCH : **Kushalnagar** A/c No. : **844660510000119** for recovery of **Rs. 6,12,928.49 + upto date interest @ 9.45 % p.a. along with other charges**	Reserve Price :**Rs. 5,00,000** EMD : **Rs. 50,000** EMD Account name **Intermediary Inward Outward Remmitance Account** EMD Account no. **844690200000033** EMD IFSC : **BKID0008446**

Terms & conditions of sale: The offers along with **EMD** by way of DD/PO/NEFT/RTGS/ in favour of The Manager Bank of India should be submitted in sealed cover to the bank officials at auction place on or before **15/05/2025, 11.00 a.m.** and the sealed quotations will be opened on **15/05/2025 at 11.00 am** in presence of bidders in the same place on the same day i.e **15/05/2025.** In case any tender is accepted, the successful bidder must deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD already paid) within next working day of the auction date and the balance amount within 7 days, thereof or in the manner prescribed by the bank failing which the amount that have been paid/deposited will be forfeited including the EMD. The bank holds absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the auction or modify any terms and conditions of the auction without any prior notice assigning any reason.
Date : 29.04.2025 | Place : Bangalore **SD/- MANAGER, BANK OF INDIA**

Luxury living begins at Home

Advertisers' Feature

Transform Your Home This Akshaya Tritiya: Embrace New Trends with Auspicious Furniture and Furnishings

Akshaya Tritiya, one of the most sacred and prosperous days in the Hindu calendar, symbolizes eternal prosperity, abundance, and new beginnings.

Traditionally known as an auspicious time to invest in gold, silver, and property, today's modern families are also extending this spirit into their homes by embracing the trend of home transformation. In 2025, a fresh wave of home decor trends inspires people to rethink and rejuvenate their living spaces. Investing in auspicious furniture and furnishings during Akshaya Tritiya not only invites positivity but also refreshes the energy of your home — making it a beautiful sanctuary that supports growth, happiness, and success.

Why Home Decor Matters on Akshaya Tritiya

Home is where energy flows. On a day as auspicious as Akshaya Tritiya, what you bring into your home is believed to multiply manifold — whether it's wealth, happiness, peace, or beauty.

Choosing the right decor items, furniture, and furnishings becomes a symbolic act of planting seeds for a prosperous future. A home makeover this season is not just about beautification. It's about aligning your surroundings with your aspirations, modern lifestyle needs, and the spirit of everlasting prosperity that Akshaya Tritiya celebrates.

New Home Transformation Trends for 2025

This year, the trend is moving toward functional elegance, natural elements, and personalized spaces that reflect who you truly are. Here's what's gaining popularity:

• Sustainable Materials: Eco-friendly furniture made from reclaimed wood, bamboo, or rattan is not just trendy but brings in grounding, nurturing energies.

• Minimalist Luxury: Clean lines, soft colour palettes, and thoughtful spaces that exude sophistication without clutter.

• Traditional Accents with a Modern Twist: Handcrafted wooden furniture, antique brass decor, and textiles with traditional weaves, reimagined in contemporary designs.

• Vastu and Feng Shui-Inspired Decor: Placement and selection of furniture based on energy flow to create harmony and success.

• Smart Furniture: Modular, tech-enabled pieces that make small homes more functional and stylish.

This Akshaya Tritiya, think beyond buying gold — invest in golden energies for your home.

By choosing the right furniture and furnishings, you're not just upgrading your interiors; you're inviting abundance, comfort, and happiness into your life.

Let your home become the canvas where new dreams are painted, new memories are made, and infinite prosperity begins. Here's to transforming your home and life with beauty, meaning, and magic this Akshaya Tritiya!

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Bhavana Nahar: Building 'Nuts In A Jar' with Purpose and Passion

Bhavana Nahar's entrepreneurial journey is a reflection of her passion for health, nutrition, and innovation. Armed with a strong background in business management, Bhavana identified a gap in the market for convenient, nutritious snacking options — and thus, "Nuts In A Jar" was born. The brand embodies her vision of making premium-quality dry fruits easily accessible while promoting healthy eating habits across age groups.

Through consistent innovation, customer education campaigns, and a commitment to eco-friendly practices, Bhavana has positioned her brand not just as a snack provider but as a health advocate. Her dedication to responsible business practices also aligns with global sustainability goals, emphasizing health, well-being, and responsible production. Today, "Nuts In A Jar" is steadily growing its market share, with plans for geographical expansion, a broader product portfolio, and enhanced digital experiences. Bhavana Nahar's entrepreneurial journey is a testament to how passion, strategic vision, and a genuine desire to make a difference can create a brand that nourishes lives while building a sustainable future.

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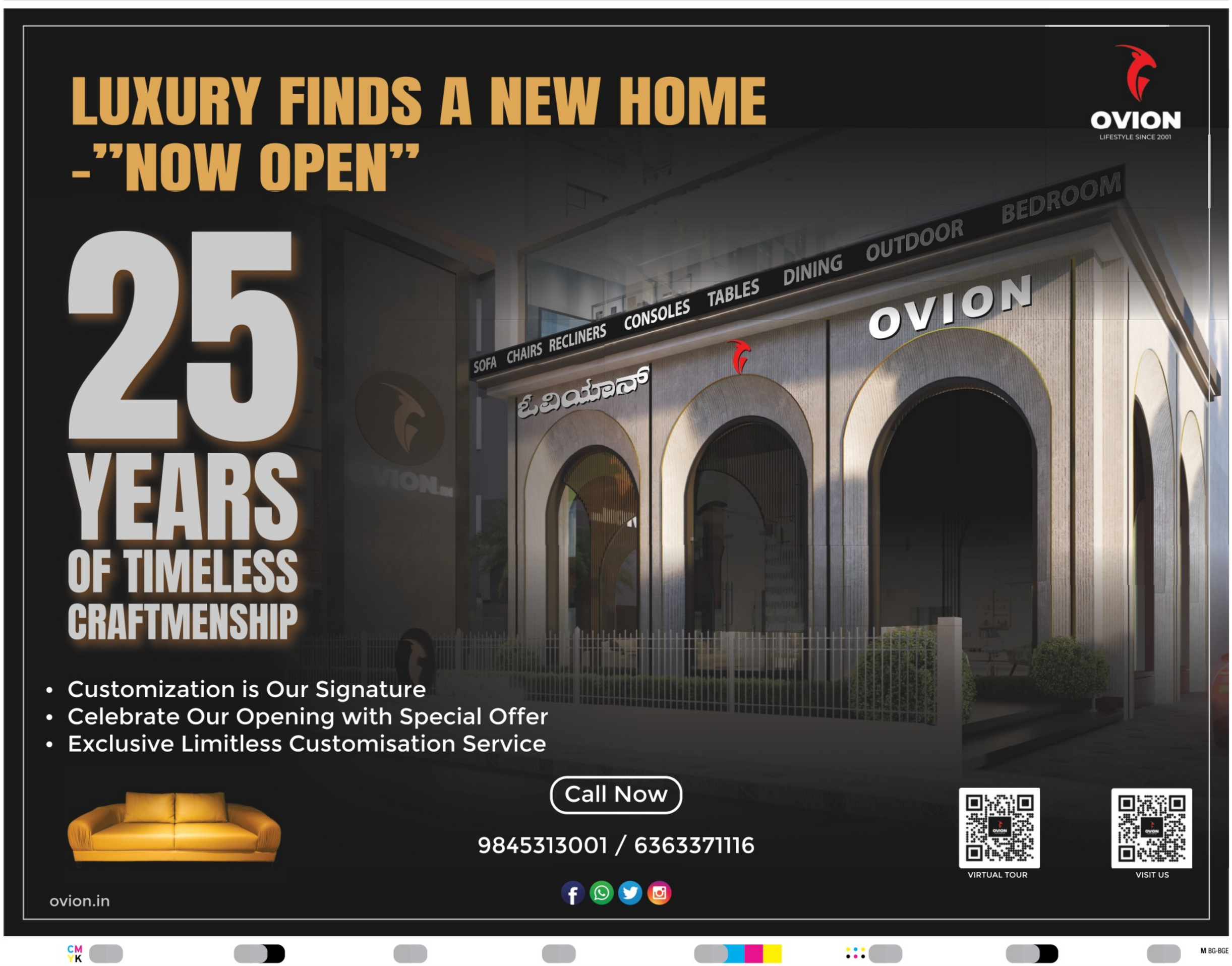

AHINDA groups urge Rahul to caution Congress leaders opposing caste census report

They launch letter campaign; point out that they are the backbone of party's support base in State

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

AHINDA groups have launched a campaign of writing letters to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urging him to caution party legislators in the State against opposing the implementation of the report of the Socio Economic and Educational Survey (popularly called 'caste census'). The survey was conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

Under the aegis of the Karnataka State Backward Classes Awareness Forum, the AHINDA groups have written to Mr. Gandhi, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, through e-mail and post cards as part of the campaign, seeking his intervention in the matter.

In its letter to Mr. Gandhi, the forum pointed out that the primary objective of the survey was to understand the socio-economic and educational condition of all communities through statistical data to ensure social justice for all. The survey, which was conducted scientifically at a cost of approximately ₹180 crore, reflecting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's social commitment and concern for the oppressed sections, has been presented and discussed in the Cabinet.

'Derogatory statements'

"However, it is deeply saddening that senior Congress MLAs, such as Shamanur Shivashankarappa and a few others, are opposing this report. Moreover, these MLAs and some leaders have made extremely derogatory statements about the report and AHINDA (an acronym for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits in Kannada)," the letter states.

"They are demanding that the report be discarded entirely, causing great distress among all the AHINDA sections," the forum said.

"Based on the statistics in this report, the government will be able to provide political, social, and educational representation to the AHINDA communities. However, it is truly unfortunate that some Congress MLAs are opposing this," the letter states. Pointing out that AHINDA communities are the backbone of the Congress support base, the letter reminds Mr. Gandhi that the party, in its election manifesto, promised to implement caste census across India.

"In this light, the AHINDA communities believe the Congress will uphold the banner of social justice". The forum has taken exception to the "highly inappropriate" actions of a few senior party MLAs, who were going "against this belief".

Contending that the behaviour of these Congress leaders in Karnataka is causing grave injustice to AHINDA communities, the letter warned that the party may face anger and backlash from these communities if implementation of the report is delayed or hindered.

"Hence, we appeal that you kindly direct Congress MLAs and leaders in Karnataka to make room for implementation of the report, and correct minor flaws, if any," the letter states. The forum's president K.S. Shivaram is among those who have written to Mr. Gandhi.

Appeal: Members of AHINDA groups sending postcards to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over the issue of implementing the caste census report. M.A. SRIRAM

Cabinet meet to discuss report put off to May 9

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A crucial Cabinet meeting, which was earlier scheduled for May 2 to discuss the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (popularly called 'caste census') conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, has been postponed to May 9.

Consecutive government holidays on April 30 and May 1 is said to be the reason for the postponement of the meeting.

In the Cabinet meeting held on April 17, the survey reports were distributed to Ministers. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked his Cabinet colleagues to submit in writing their opinion on the survey.

However, dominant communities of Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat, and Ministers belonging to both communities have strongly opposed the survey report. The report has apparently divided the Ministers and legislators of the Congress along caste lines. The Karnataka Vokkaligara Sangha and the All India Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha have both opposed the survey data and called for a fresh survey. They announced that they would carry out surveys of their respective communities.

Cong. leadership continues to nudge CM, Ministers on various issues

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Over the last few months, the Congress high command appears to be constantly nudging the Karnataka government, the latest being Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur's responses to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 people.

The AICC has been cautious in its remarks on the terror attack after conflicting statements were made by some of its senior leaders in the State. Hours after the attack, the party's measured response was offering unconditional backing to the government in whatever action it took against the perpetrators and their backers, while highlighting intelligence and security lapses.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Thimmapur's remarks on the terror attack have not gone well with the party's central leaders, and they distanced themselves from the remarks made by the State leaders. In a damage-control exercise, the party high command apparently told its State leaders to toe the party line, particularly that mentioned in the Congress Working Committee's resolution.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Siddaramaiah

On terror attack

In his initial remarks, Mr. Siddaramaiah said there was no need for a war with Pakistan and suggested stepping up security in the border areas. Immediately, the BJP escalated its attack over the remark, shared purported reports by Pakistani media, which played Mr. Siddaramaiah's comments. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok slammed the Chief Minister and went so far as to call him "Pakistan's jewel". The BJP also hit out at Mr. Thimmapur for his comments that "terrorists would not have asked the name and the religion of victims".

Apparently, after the high command's instruction, Mr. Siddaramaiah said his comments were twisted and clarified that he did not completely rule out war, but meant that it should be considered only as the nation's last option.

There have been other instances in the past when the Congress high command opposed comments/decisions taken by the State Ministers or leaders.

Leadership squabbles

In January 2025, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge issued a stern warning to State Ministers saying that "all should shut up and discharge duties assigned to them", after factions supporting Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar publicly challenged each other on the KPCC president holding multiple posts and demanded the appointment of a full-time State Congress chief.

The high command has constantly told party legislators and Ministers not to speak to the media about leadership changes, Cabinet expansion, or the change of the KPCC president. Again in January, Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary, in charge of Karnataka, objected to the "dinner meeting" of SC/ST Ministers and leaders called by Home Minister G. Parameshwara. Subsequently, the meeting was cancelled.

Honey trap

In March, the high command reportedly was disappointed with the manner in which the government handled Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna's allegation that vested interests had honey-trapped 48 people, including legislators and central leaders. The allegations embarrassed the party at the national level when Parliament session was on.

CM acting out of frustration: Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP has termed the incident of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah raising his hand against a police officer after losing his cool as a sign of frustration over the possibility of him having to step down as per the purported power-sharing pact.

In a statement on Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said, "The Chief Minister has begun to show his anger on officials now as he has started realising that he would have to relinquish his post." He said, "Mr. Siddaramaiah, who describes himself as peace-loving, tries to assault the police officer."

He defended the BJP workers' action of waving a black flag during the Congress programme addressed by the Chief Minister in Belagavi.

HDD praises Kharge for 'mature' response

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Tuesday complimented All India Congress Committee (AICC) president M. Mallikarjun Kharge for emphasising the need to demonstrate national unity to deal with the situation arising out of the terrorist attack at Pahalgam in Jammu Kashmir recently.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Mr. Gowda said Mr. Kharge was an "experienced" leader and his response to the tragic attack on tourists at Pahalgam was "mature". He also pointed out that leaders of the INDIA bloc had also resolved to help the efforts to identify the perpetrators of the terrorist act and punish them.

When reporters sought his reaction on the incident in Belagavi involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday, Mr. Gowda said he would not like to comment on politicians of Karnataka, including the Chief Minister or the Deputy Chief Minister.

He said he had discussed with Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy earlier in the day on strengthening their regional party, which was now in alliance with the BJP. Mr. Gowda reiterated that he would like to tour the State and strengthen the hands of Mr. Kumaraswamy to rebuild the party.

Gehlot writes to CM, Speaker to revoke suspension of 18 BJP MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Speaker U.T. Khader asking them to "positively consider" the request to revoke the suspension of 18 BJP members of the Legislative Assembly.

In the letters addressed to the Chief Minister and the Speaker, the Governor said he desired that they take a positive step in order to uphold the basic tenets of democratic values in the State and to enable the suspended MLAs to resume their responsibilities as representatives of the people.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

Delegation meeting

A delegation of BJP legislators, led by party State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, met the Governor on Monday seeking his intervention in revoking the suspension of the 18 BJP MLAs. Mr. Ashok had stated that the Governor assured them of writing to the government and initiating discussions with the Speaker on the issue. The BJP had also met the Speaker on the issue earlier.

The Governor, citing the memorandum submitted by the BJP legislature party leaders, said in his letter that they had requested him to forward their representation to the Speaker and the State government. "In view of the above, to uphold the basic tenets of democratic values in the State of Karnataka and to enable the suspended members to resume their responsibilities as people's representatives, I desire that their request be considered positively, and necessary steps be taken to revoke the suspension," the Governor's letter said.

During the Budget session of the legislature, 18 MLAs belonging to the BJP had been suspended for six months from the House for creating a ruckus. They had been suspended for "indiscipline and disrespectful behaviour" towards the Speaker's chair. They had mounted vociferous protests demanding a judicial or CBI probe into the allegations by Minister K.N. Rajanna, and had also torn papers and booklets and hurled them towards the Speaker.

'Dept. recruits 1,000 VAOs in fool-proof method'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 1,000 posts of village administrative officer (erstwhile village accountant) have been filled in a transparent and fool-proof way by the Revenue Department without a single allegation of corruption or malpractice, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Tuesday.

All the selected candidates were given employment orders by him at a programme held at the Vidhana Soudha to mark the release of a book on the achievements of the Revenue Department in the last two years.

Expressing happiness over filling the posts in a transparent and fool-proof manner, Mr. Siddaramaiah sought to compare this with the recruitment of over one lakh teachers by the then Primary and Secondary Education Minister Govinde Gowda in 1994-95.

Digitalisation initiative: Village administrative officers were given laptops by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a programme at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

More posts to be filled

Pointing out that the State had a total of 9,834 VAO posts, the Chief Minister said while 8,003 VAOs were already working, another 1,000 would join them now. The government would ensure that none of these posts remains vacant, he said.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the process was so transparent and fool-proof that nobody, including himself, could tamper with it even at the highest level.

Pointing out that earlier such recruitments were being held at the district level, he said, the department had taken up a State-level recruitment initiative through the Karnataka Examinations Authority to fill such a record number of posts. "As many as 6,33,916 members had applied for 1,000 posts, resulting in a tough competition that pegged the selection to a mere 0.0016% of candidates," he said.

Meanwhile, laptops were provided to 4,000 VAOs on the occasion as part of the government's initiative to take digitalisation of the functioning of the department to the village level. Pointing out that presently, the VAOs were spending much of their time commuting to the taluk offices to either collect or deliver *tapals* (official letters), Mr. Gowda said such an archaic practice had delayed the process of disposal of petitions.

Bank holds outreach camp

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Bank of India (UBI) on Monday conducted a CASA (current account and savings account) outreach camp for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

G.K. Sudhakar Rao, general manager - MSME, UBI, inaugurated the event and promoted the bank's MSME offerings and women-centric financial schemes such as Union Samriddhi, Unnati, CAPRO, and SBPRO.

Over 300 participants attended the event. A total of 122 accounts were sanctioned, amounting to ₹227.76 crore. Additionally, business leads worth ₹378 crore were generated.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Aarathi, Sandeep, Shameek, Shaurya & the N.T. John family are sad to announce the passing of

Chellam John Varma
4.2.1948 – 25.4.2025

A remembrance will be held in Bengaluru between 4 PM - 6 PM on 10.5.2025, Saturday.

Her friends, family and loved ones are invited to join us in celebrating her life.

Please RSVP on rememberingchellam@gmail.com or msg on +91-8050.450.999 for details.

"Our Loved Ones Are Never Gone Until We Have Forgotten Them"

OBITUARY

S. RAJALAKSHMI,71
D.O.B - 18-1-1954 - 28.4.2025
Wife of - R SANTHANAM (Ex-GM IOB)
137(New) St.Marry's Road,Alwarpet, Chennai-18.
Condolences please contact
R.Santhanam & Sai Giridhar
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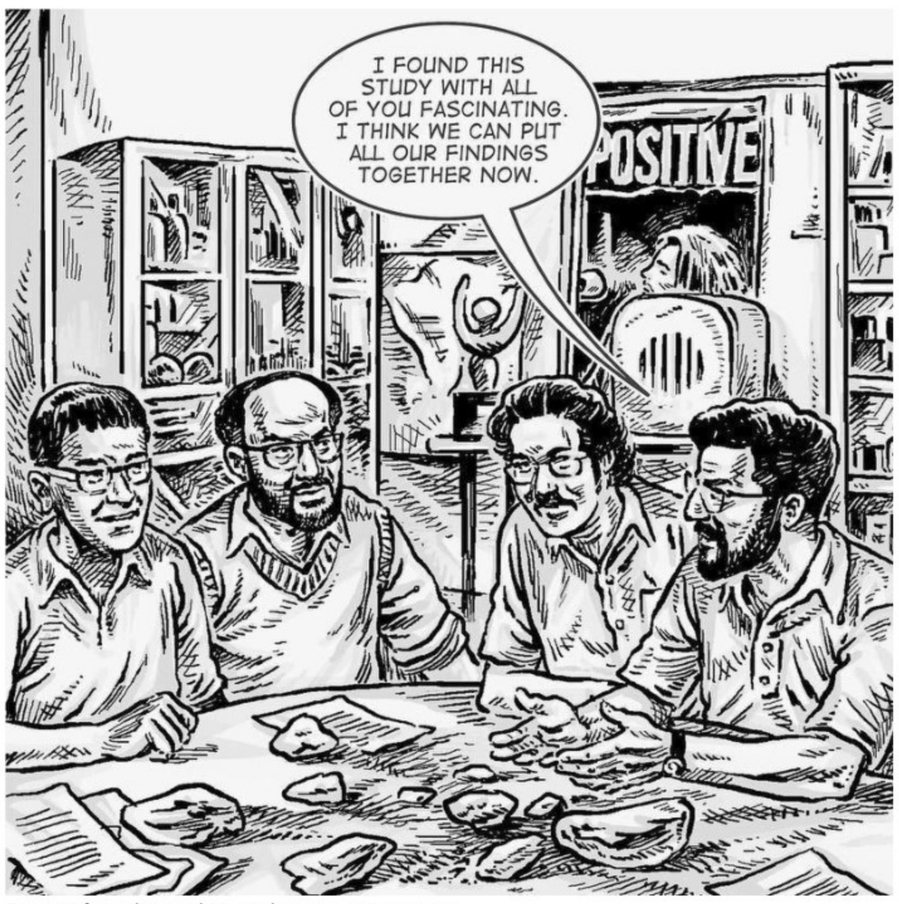
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

A graphic novel that brings to life Francis Buchanan's survey of south India

A Journey into the Furnace of History: The Dying Embers of Ancient Iron-Smelting in India by Dr. Sashi Sivramkrishna retraces the journey of the Scottish physician, botanist and surveyor

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU



THIS IS SO STARK! KIND OF CREEPS ME OUT TO THINK THAT BUCHANAN WAS STANDING RIGHT HERE 200 YEARS AGO.
LET'S GO ASK THE VILLAGERS ABOUT SMELTING HERE.

Excerpts from the graphic novel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is an interesting story about the Mysore Maharajas combined with two natural phenomena," says the Bengaluru-based economist and the chairman of the Foundation to Aid Industrial Recovery (FAIR), a not-for-profit society that focuses on helping the country's under-managed sectors. This 400-year-old curse, which is believed to have been uttered by Queen Alamelamma, the queen of the once-strong but now crumbling Vijayanagara Empire, when the Wadiyars dethroned her husband and took over Mysore, had three parts to it: Talakadu would become a desert, the river Malangi would turn into a whirlpool, and the Mysore Kings would bear no heirs.

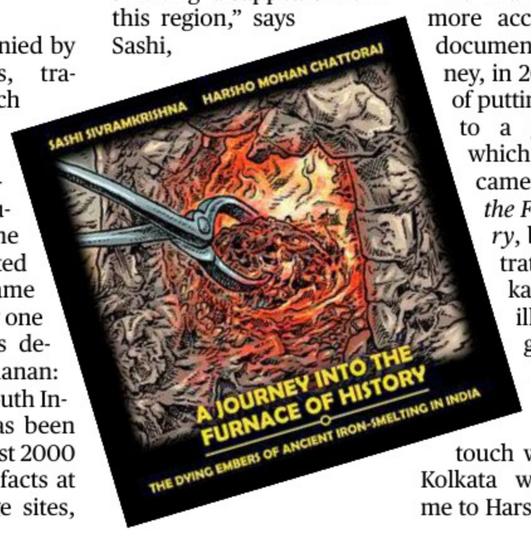
Although he is someone who "could not believe that curses come true...I am quite a rationalist", he thought of investigating this story, going into the project with an open mind. "Wherever we went, in Mysore and places around it, people generally believed in it," he recalls. And while there appeared to be some anecdotal evidence, with many of the Mysore rulers failing to beget heirs and having to adopt, "it all seemed very confusing," says Sashi, who researched the subject, with a colleague, for a year and a half, "getting stuck along the way, because there was very little evidence about all this."

In 2005, as part of his research, Sashi visited the library of the Mythic Society on Bengaluru's Nrupathunga Road, looking through some references, when he came across Buchanan's three-volume survey titled *A Journey from Madras through the Countries of Mysore, Canara, and Malabar*, published in 1807. Buchanan, who became a medical officer with the British East India Company in 1794, had been commissioned to survey South India in 1800, following the death of Tipu Sultan and the British's decisive victory over the Kingdom of Mysore. While going through the survey, he discovered this. "Buchanan had visited Malangi, and he does talk about some curse and states that Talakadu was covered in sand," says Sashi, who went on to make a film about the curse in 2005. "That was my introduction to Buchanan."

Sashi then found himself delving deeper into Buchanan's work, becoming increasingly fascinated by this survey. "Normally, when you look at history, it is about battles and wars," he says. "But here, Buchanan touches upon people and the day-to-day life in these places. He talks about farmers, agricultural labourers, people weaving blankets, things we don't usually learn as part of our history education." That is when he decided that he wanted to trace Buchanan's journey, travelling back and forth, between Bengaluru and the places chronicled in Journey from Madras through the Countries of Mysore, Canara, and Malabar, trying to understand whether the occupations Buchanan had described continued to exist and in what form.

Iron smelting

As Sashi, accompanied by other researchers, travelled to places such as Channarayana Durga, Yelladakere, Chikkanayakanahalli and Gattipura, and talked to the people who inhabited them, they became deeply intrigued by one of the occupations described by Buchanan: iron-smelting. In South India, where iron has been smelted since at least 2000 BCE, going by artefacts at very early iron age sites, they couldn't help but wonder why the traditional craft of smelting has largely disappeared, says Sashi, who worked with Mahadev Nayak, Amalendu Jyotishi and GJ Lingaraj on this project. "We met people who told us that smelting would happen even in the 1930s and 40s; they remember their grandfathers doing it," he says, adding that, in India, there is usually a certain continuity of tradition, with things rarely disappearing completely. "So I started looking for answers to why and when iron smelting disappears from this region," says Sashi,


SASHI SIVRAMKRISHNA
HARSHO MOHAN CHATTORAJ
A JOURNEY INTO THE FURNACE OF HISTORY
THE DYING EMBERS OF ANCIENT IRON-SMELTING IN INDIA

who was involved in this research till 2010 and has published it in several academic journals, including *Environment and History* and *Economic and Political Weekly*.

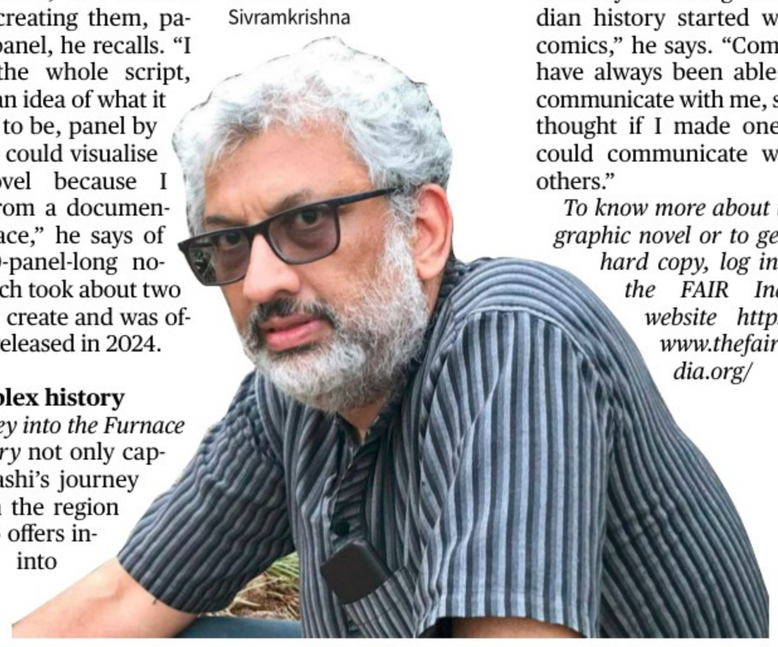
To make his research more accessible and to document his own journey, in 2022, he thought of putting it together into a graphic novel, which eventually became *A Journey into the Furnace of History*, beautifully illustrated by the Kolkata-based illustrator and a graphic novelist himself, Harsho Mohan Chattoraj. "I got in touch with a friend in Kolkata who introduced me to Harsho, a renowned artist in this space," he says. They worked together, with Sashi sending him old pictures, and Harsho slowly creating them, panel by panel, he recalls. "I wrote the whole script, having an idea of what it needed to be, panel by panel. I could visualise the novel because I come from a documentary space," he says of the 210-panel-long novel, which took about two years to create and was officially released in 2024.

A complex history

A Journey into the Furnace of History not only captures Sashi's journey through the region but also offers insights into Buchanan's thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and examines the craft, tradition and legacy of iron-smelting. Starting with a description of an encounter with a blacksmith, Marappa, who takes Sashi and his colleagues to an iron-smelting site a little outside Channarayana Durga, the book touches on other fascinating insights about this tradition, including how Tipu Sultan's ongoing battle with the British upped demand for iron, how tribes like the Asur and Agaria played a massive role in the development of this technology, the origin of the famous Wootz steel or ukku and the surprising relationship between smelting and deforestation.

"From these findings, a larger narrative of iron smelting evolved," states the book's introduction, pointing out that Indian environmental history has missed the scale and importance of proto-industrial development in South India, viewing medieval economies as agrarian, consisting of self-sufficient villages. And yet, the centrality of a war economy in the feudal period and the need for arms and ammunition were too large to be brushed aside, continues the introduction, which goes on to argue that there is a need to rethink our environmental history by "integrating military and metallurgical history, with elements of anthropology, economics and sociology."

Dr. Sashi Sivramkrishna



Making charcoal

Since iron smelting requires larger amounts of wood to make charcoal, the fuel for the activity, it leads to excessive deforestation, says Sashi, who believes that while many environmental historians attribute the destruction of forests in India to a colonial enterprise, connected to the advent of railways, the reality is a bit more complicated. "Typically, environmental history is not connected to iron and steel, but imagine armies of 50-100,000, carrying a sword, shield...elephants with armour... canons," he says, pointing out that even making a small canon would require 1000-1500 tonnes of wood to make.

In Sashi's opinion, there is a desperate need to connect the environment, the military, the social and the political history of the nation, and to reach a larger audience, which the graphic novel attempts to do. "We can write technical or academic papers and get them published, but how many people are interested in reading them?" he asks.

Graphic novels, on the other hand, are well suited to convey research and are also very accessible, in his opinion. Besides, he admits, he has personally always loved graphic novels. "I grew up on comics..Superman, Batman, Tintin. Even my knowledge of Indian history started with comics," he says. "Comics have always been able to communicate with me, so I thought if I made one, I could communicate with others."

To know more about the graphic novel or to get a hard copy, log in to the FAIR India website https://www.thefairindia.org/

An auditory trip through Cubbon Park

Sonic Picnics, an interactive textile artwork by Karthika Sakthivel, a Bengaluru-based artist, was launched in the city at Cubbon Park recently

Mathew William
BENGALURU

On Sunday, Cubbon Park came alive with a unique new initiative: Sonic Picnics, an interactive textile artwork by Karthika Sakthivel, a Bengaluru-based artist. The piece, created over the last year with recorded interviews, memories, and community engagements in Cubbon Park, invited the public to embark on an auditory trip through the heart of the city, and explore its historical and contemporary narratives, to see what exactly makes the park so special to Bengaluru.

The project, created under the India Foundation For The Arts' Project 560 programme, involved participants sitting on and engaging with a large picnic blanket that, using touch-based audio technology, played the stories, interviews, and personal memories of the people and communities in and around Cubbon Park.

Genesis of idea

The idea came from the artist's work with the British Library, where she realised that people "don't want just to put on headphones and stare at a wall anymore". In the spirit of this, when she heard a clip of a woman talking about her mother's warmth and fondness, she had an idea to create a quilt that you could be wrapped in, like the mother's embrace, while hearing the stories of her warmth. She then took her learnings from that and translated them into the piece she has today.

Built as a communal experience, the piece allowed for up to five people to sit together and, with the help of headphones connected to conductive fabric, thread and a microcontroller tucked under the blanket, hear the stories that they chose together. "I thought of it as a social experiment," explained Sakthivel. "I feel like we're always in our own bubble, and suddenly people realise that I'm making a decision and other people are listening to it too, and it was a revelation to them. Even if they were strangers, in a way, the stories bring them together." She also talks about the venue chosen to conduct this experiment. "The reason I chose Cubbon Park is because it's a place where people slow down and feel this connection to each other and nature. We have a large culture of storytelling, but we don't see as much listening, and I'm interested in cultivating that."

Participants at Sonic Picnics. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The stories ranged from experiences of celebrating a child's first birthday and going on dates that lasted till the sun rose to the effects of the recent changes in rules banning food and photography in the park.

Positive response

The response from the listeners felt overwhelmingly positive, with one saying, "This magic carpet takes you from one mythology of the park to another through time and shows us that while fashion and accents have changed, the way the city interacts with the park has stayed the same"

Sakthivel notes that she's interested in the idea of having additions and chapters to this piece, allowing for it to continue in different forms. "The great part about fabric is it's very malleable, I've done a quilt, I could do a table cloth, but to me it's not just about the medium, it's about the people and the stories.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 30, 1975

Preservation of Mysore Palace: Trust Created

Bangalore, April 29: The Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, informed the Legislative Council today that a public charitable trust had been created for the maintenance and preservation of the Mysore Palace and valuable objects therein.

The recent trust deed was signed yesterday by the following as settlers and trustees: Mr. Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, Smt. Tripurasundarammaniavaru, Smt. Meenakshi Deviavaru, Smt. Kamashi Deviavaru, Smt Indrakshi Deviavaru, Kumari Vishalakshi Devavaru minor by mother Smt. Tripurasundarammaniavaru and Sardar K.B. Ramachdraraje Urs.

The State Government, he said, had nominated the following to be members of the trust. Mr. Samuel Appaji, Divisional Commissioner, Mysore Division, Mysore, Mr. N.D. Venkatesh, Secretary to Government, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. S. Varadan, Commissioner for Public Works and Electricity and Secretary to Government, Mr. M. Sankaranarayanan, Additional Secretary to Government, General Administration Department.

The Government of India has nominated Mr. S. Balakrishnan, Joint Secretary Union Ministry of Home Affairs to be a trustee.

A four-day retrospective, *Samagama*, will be held at Suchitra FIlm Society, where actor-director Suchendra Prasad's work will be screened, to celebrate the man, his legacy and his stance to swim against the tide

Man of many talents
Director-actor K Suchendra Prasad and stills from his movies. THE HINDU / SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A scholarly approach to an onscreen saga

Shilpa Anandraj

Voicing Silence, a film production company, founded by actor-director and theatre practitioner Suchendra Prasad and Suchitra Film Society, Bengaluru, join hands to organise a four-day retrospective of the actor's body of work, titled *Samagama*. The event commences on May 1 to mark Suchendra's birthday and continues till May 4. Six films written and directed by him including *Prapaatha*, *Ekachakram* (Sanskrit), *Ekachara* (Kannada), *Sangdhigdha, Maabvu Bevu* and his yet-to-be-released directorial venture, *Padma Gandhi,* will be screened.

Besides this, the event also aims to celebrate every medium the actor has worked in for over three decades including theatre, cinema, Sanskrit and child rights. These topics will be the focus of discussions, activities and events by theatre and film personalities and Sanskrit scholars from Karnataka.

Suchendra, who ventured into theatre in the early 90s made his film debut in Girish Karnad's *Kanooru Heggadithi* (1999). This paved the way for him to switch between parallel cinema and theatre, working with directors including BV Karanth and DR Ankur.

Not being able to sustain himself financially, drove Suchendra to commercial cinema. He was successful, shining in roles as a comedian, cop, hen-pecked husband or judge. While on one side he was sharing the screen with stars such as Malashri (*Election*), Yash (*Drama*) or Darshan (*Roberrt*) on the other, he continued to work and thrive in parallel cinema with films such as *Haggada Kone* and *Bettada Jeevi*.

Speaking from Ahmedabad, where his Sanskrit language full-length feature film, *Ekachakram* was screened at the Ahmedabad International Film Festival 2025, Suchendra says, he is humbled by *Samagama*.

"The event is organised by my colleagues and friends from theatre and cinema, Sanskrit scholars, writers that I have worked with during my professional journey." Grateful to Suchitra for providing their space and collaborating for this festival, Suchendra says, "Having them on board has made this event easier to organise."

His films may not have thrived at the box office, but Suchendra says, "Tough as it is, I make cinema, because I am passionate about these issues. We have people who use the medium of cinema and theatre for entertainment, and wealth. I choose to use the medium to communicate about issues that touch me deeply. Visual media can become a tool to talk about burning issues such as child marriage, girl child education, our land, its history and heritage, which is what I have attempted to do. These issues are etched deep in my heart due to my past association with UNICEF."

Suchendra worked as a media consultant with UNICEF (2008-2012) and directed documentaries about Child Rights Protection with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme (2016-18).

"During this tenure, I travelled extensively across every nook and corner of Karnataka and have seen these burning issues unfold in reality. These experiences, in a way, become a part of my screenplays."

"Success is a mindset and I believe I am successful, because despite knowing the genre goes against the tide, I make it a point to make them. Every film of mine is a result of five to 10 years of research."

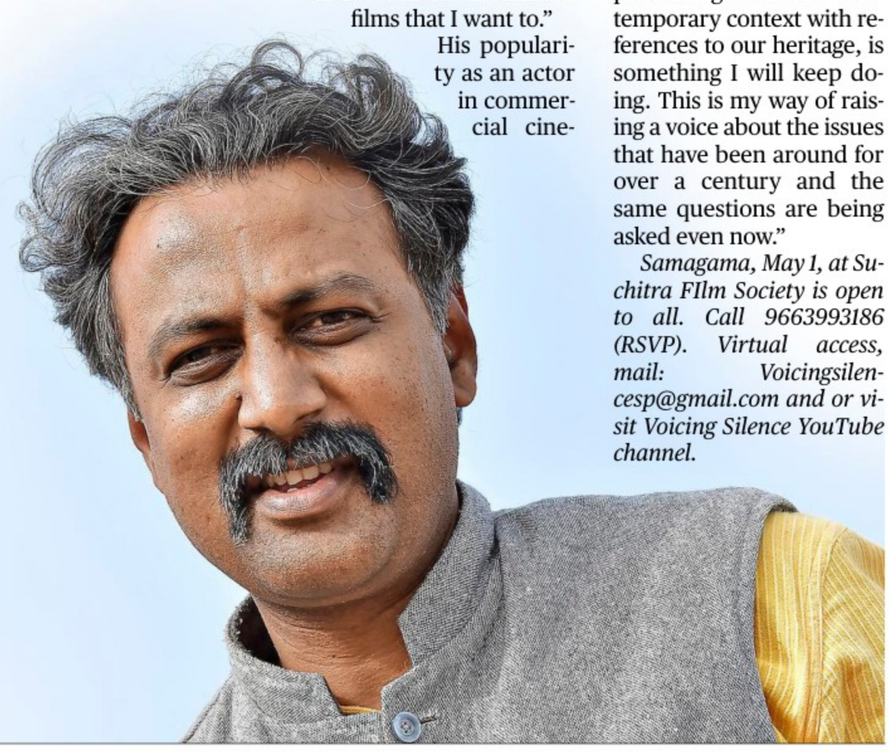
Ekachakram may not be commercially successful, Suchendra says, but the film garnered ample attention on the festival circuit. "These are the types of stories that will live on forever, because they are unique Having said this, I am also grateful to my colleagues, who make commercial cinema and offer me roles in their films. It is because of them that I can put food on the table and afford to make the kind of films that I want to."

His popularity as an actor in commercial cinema, Suchendra says, helps draw a certain amount of crowds to watch his films. "I may not have been able to draw a huge audience, but I am still thankful to every colleague in this medium for giving me work in their films. This way, at least I am being noticed as a director, after three decades in this medium."

Numerous people have reached out to attend *Samagama,* Suchendra says. "We have had such a positive response that we are also going virtual with the event, which again has a limited seatings." These stories, Suchendra says, have always existed with mainstream cinema as "there will always be an audience for every kind of film or a story."

Suchendra says he he will continue to act in commercial cinema to fund making his kind of films. "Weaving burning issues into a simple narrative and presenting it in the contemporary context with references to our heritage, is something I will keep doing. This is my way of raising a voice about the issues that have been around for over a century and the same questions are being asked even now."

Samagama, May 1, at Suchitra FIlm Society is open to all. Call 9663993186 (RSVP). Virtual access, mail: Voicingsilencesp@gmail.com and or visit Voicing Silence YouTube channel.



Guessing game
A scene from *Ayyana Mane.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A passable murder mystery

Vivek MV

Ayyana Mane is out on Zee5, the streaming counterpart of ZeeTV, known for popular soap operas. It is directed by Ramesh Indira and produced by his wife, Shruti Naidu. The couple has vast experience in making television content, and this amalgamation has resulted in a web series that tries hard to come out of the hangover of a TV serial.

Ayyana Mane is billed as the maiden Kannada web series on Zee5. However, with six episodes, each around 18 minutes, the murder mystery is essentially a mini-series that just about remains watchable. Set in the 90s of Chikkamagaluru, the series begins with Jaaji (Khushi Ravi) marrying Dushyantha (Akshay Nayak) and moving to Ayyana Mane, a large household headed by her mother-in-law Nagalambike (Manasi Sudhir).

Jaaji's marital life begins on a wrong note when her father-in-law passes away the day she arrives at Ayyana Mane. Even as her husband supports her amid suspicion against her, Jaaji realises she is in a cursed house. One by one, daughter-in-laws die at Ayyana Mane under mysterious circumstances, and Jaaji fears her turn could come anytime.

The series piques some curiosity by spotlighting multiple people to make us guess the murderer. Is Jaaji's husband, Dushyantha, really a kind-hearted man? Do Dushyantha's brothers have an ulterior motive? Is Nagalambike hiding some secrets? We wonder about these things, but the series doesn't have mind-boggling twists to keep us on the edge. *Ayyana Mane* doesn't carry the tension familiar with solid murder mysteries.

Ayyana Mane will work for those wanting to watch a simple whodunnit. For ardent followers of TV soaps, the series is a better outing, thanks to its straightforwardness, and minus the zoom-in and zoom-out camera techniques, loud background scores, and caricaturish characters.

Cinematographer Rahul Roy creates an atmosphere suitable for the premise with his low-key lighting and slightly unconventional camera angles. Despite their limited character arcs, the ensemble cast is impressive, with Khushee Ravi and Manasi Sudhir standing out.

The minor reveals in the few episodes give the series a decent closure, but *Ayyana Mane* has one too many subplots that could have had better arcs. There's the angle of people fearing the anger of *daiva* (god), and the plot has a touch of supernatural elements as well. There's a culture clash when an urban woman (Hita Chandrashekar) comes as a daughter-in-law. There's Jaaji's silent fortitude, which makes her unique. The series even tries to understand the psyche of the killer. But all these aspects never get fleshed out to give us a sense of fulfilment.

Ayyana Mane is currently streaming on Zee5

Ayyana Mane (Kannada)
Director: Ramesh Indira
Cast: Khushee Ravi, Manasi Sudhir, Anirudh Acharya, Akshay Nayak
Episodes: 6
Runtime: 18 minutes
Storyline: Jaaji arrives at her marital home on her wedding day, only to witness her father-in-law's sudden death. As she discovers more chilling secrets, Jaaji must find a way to survive in the house

REVIEW

Raw portrayal of grief

Vivek MV

How long does it take for us to overcome grief? The most sensible answer, perhaps, is that grief isn't the same for everyone. For Vicky (Vamshi), in *Firefly,* the tragedy of losing his loved ones puts him through phases of denial, anger, depression, and acceptance.

Vicky returns to Mysuru from abroad for his cousin's wedding, only to land up in a coma after a devastating incident that leaves him without a family. Post-recovery, he is hit by insomnia, which forces him to adopt many methods, ranging from sensible to outrageous, to find a solution.

From binge eating to self-infliction of pain to trying to find reasons to smile, Vicky's life becomes a series of coping mechanisms. Vamshi, who has also directed the film, opts for an unconventional manner to present his protagonist's world. As a line from the trailer says, "When reality feels unbearable, the quest for peace becomes surreal."

The obvious Wes Anderson-esque mood of *Firefly* is one of its biggest strengths. Serious and emotional scenes have comforting and warm colours, the contrasting palettes you see in Anderson's movies. Like in Anderson's films, characters in *Firefly* are framed symmetrically in several scenes, creating a visual balance. The quirky set design is another hat tip to the *The Grand Budapest Hotel* filmmaker.

Firefly is a character study of Vicky, and the 4:3 aspect ratio of the movie attempts to provide an intimate view of the protagonist's journey. The film tries to create a vibe in every scene and tells its audience to overlook the logic of those moments. Cinematographer Abhilash Kalathi does well in making each frame appear interesting, a rare attempt in Kannada cinema in recent times. However, as with first-time filmmakers, *Firefly* is undone by the director's indulgence.

Firefly is luminous with creative shots, but this template had to be matched with memorable characters. In Rajkumar Hirani's *Munna Bhai MBBS,* characters such as a terminally-ill patient (essayed by Jimmy Shergill) and a person in a paralysed state (called Anand bhai) tames Munna (Sanjay Dutt), a gangster who then begins to look at life with compassion.

In *Firefly,* when Vicky joins a self-help group, I expected the arrival of similarly moving characters who could change his outlook to life. Instead, the film opts for a low-hanging fruit. Vicky takes his first step towards change when he comes across the perseverance of small-town people handling economic hardships, an overworked trope in commercial films. The ultra-serious nature of this portion doesn't fit well with the self-deprecating tone of the movie.

Firefly could have benefited from good humour and engaging conversations. The film has tepid drama thanks to Vicky's flat conversations with his parents (Achyuth Kumar and Sudharani) and the girl he falls in love with at first sight (Rachana Inder). Even as *Firefly* breaks conventional visual grammar, supported by Charan Raj's appealing music, I wished the film focused on small and beautiful moments, like the one where Vicky gets a photo frame of his parents and the scene in which the girl he loves asks him to live in the moment.

Vicky reminds you of Sid, who wakes up to love and life in Ayaan Mukerji's 2009 Hindi film.

Both struggle hard to become a man of purpose. In fact, *Firefly* is yet another coming-of-age tale at its core. The attempt to tell this tale of self-discovery in an unorthodox manner is commendable. Consistent writing could have added depth to the film's highly relatable core.

Firefly is currently running in theatres

Firefly (Kannada)
Director: Vamshi
Cast: Vamshi, Rachana Inder, Achyuth Kumar, Sudharani
Runtime: 135 minutes
Storyline: A melancholic, surreal journey of Vicky as he deals with life's challenges and seeks the purpose of his life through bizarre adventures

Heartfelt Actor Vamshi in stills from *Firefly*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka HC directs Centre to block Proton Mail in India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Court also orders immediate blocking of offending URLs of Proton Mail till action is initiated for blocking the mail in the country

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Union government to initiate legal proceedings under provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, to block Proton Mail in India.

On Tuesday, Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the directions while allowing a petition filed by M. Moser Design Associates India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru.

The court also directed the Union government to block forthwith the offending uniform resource locator (URLs), which are indicated in the petition, till the government initiates and concludes the proceedings to block Proton Mail under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, read with Rule 10 of the IT Procedure and Safeguards of Blocking of Access to Information by Public Access Rules, 2009.

The copy of the complete judgment is yet to be released.

The petitioner-company had moved the High Court seeking direction to the government to take legal action against Proton AG, a Switzerland-based company that provides Proton Mail services, based on international agreements by pointing out that Proton's servers are located outside India, and hence it is claiming that it is not bound by Indian laws.

The petitioner claimed that Proton's email service allows users to select India as their server location, which gives a false impression that the company is 'operating' from within the Indian territory.

The petitioner had filed a complaint with the police in November 2024 alleging that some unknown persons are misusing Proton Mail and were targeting female employees of the petitioner-company by sending obscene, abusive, and derogatory emails containing AI-generated deep-fake images and explicit content.

The petitioner had contended that not much progress has been made in the complaint lodged with the police. Police authorities have not utilised the legal assistance agreements and arrangements between India and Switzerland to initiate action against Proton AG based on the FIR registered on the petitioner's complaint.

Six-year-old dies of rabies in Kerala despite vaccination

Girl's death comes a month after a dog bit her head and limbs; government hospital in Kozhikode denies family's allegation of lapses in treatment; 12 people have died of rabies in Kerala this year

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM/KOZHIKODE

Growing concern: Kerala saw 22 rabies deaths in 2024. THULASI KAKKAT

A six-year-old girl who was bitten by a stray dog a month ago died of rabies at the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode, on Tuesday despite having received the anti-rabies vaccine.

The girl, Ziya Faris from Peruvallur, near Calicut University, in the district, was mauled by the dog on March 29 when she stepped out of her house to get sweets. She was bitten on the head and limbs. Ziya received the rabies vaccine and treatment for the wounds at the MCH. Her father, Salman Faris, said she was discharged after the vaccination and her wounds were dressed again during a follow-up visit.

Ziya developed fever six days ago and tested positive for rabies. She spent six days in the intensive care unit at the MCH before dying of rabies.

Ziya's family alleged lapses in treatment at the MCH. But the hospital authorities denied the allegations saying that they had followed the proper protocol.

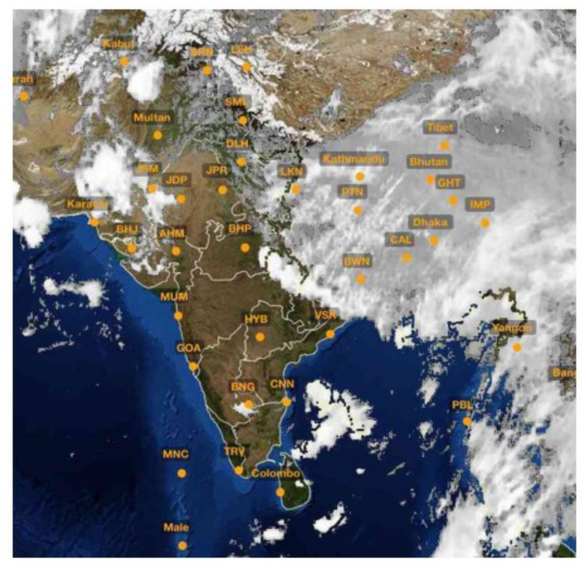
The bite wound on her head might have directly impacted Ziya's brain, possibly making the rabies infection more severe and causing her death, say MCH doctors.

The incident has set off alarm bells in Kerala, which has already reported 12 deaths from rabies in 2025. According to the Health Department, while two rabies deaths were reported in 2016, 22 died in 2024.

"We can't wait any more for the control of dogs," says K.K. Purushothaman, a public health expert.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya and Odisha. Thunderstorms with gusty winds likely at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	18	32.2	22.0	Kozhikode	1	36.6	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	44.8	26.6	Kurnool	—	40.6	28.2
Aizawl	2.5	30.0	21.2	Lucknow	—	35.4	22.0
Allahabad	—	37.2	24.4	Madurai	2	37.2	26.5
Bengaluru	—	34.2	24.0	Mangaluru	0.1	34.0	25.6
Bhopal	—	41.8	26.7	Mumbai	—	33.8	25.3
Bhubaneswar	—	36.7	21.0	Mysuru	—	34.0	23.0
Chandigarh	—	35.9	26.6	New Delhi	—	37.5	24.5
Chennai	—	35.1	28.3	Patna	0.6	30.3	22.9
Coimbatore	—	37.0	25.0	Port Blair	—	32.8	25.8
Dehradun	—	34.3	20.8	Puducherry	—	35.2	27.4
Gangtok	11	19.6	11.0	Pune	—	42.0	25.7
Goa	—	37.0	28.0	Raipur	0.4	38.5	22.8
Guwahati	13	26.0	20.7	Ranchi	—	32.0	18.0
Hubballi	—	40.0	23.0	Shillong	41	18.2	13.6
Hyderabad	—	38.2	26.2	Shimla	—	28.2	17.6
Imphal	—	24.1	21.0	Srinagar	—	30.8	9.4
Jaipur	—	39.0	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	2	33.0	25.6
Kochi	23	33.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	38.1	27.4
Kohima	12	21.7	14.1	Vijayawada	—	39.5	27.6
Kolkata	17	32.7	19.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.1	27.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	.62	.33	...138	...142	
Bengaluru	..—	..17	.40	...143	...129	
Chennai	.15	.17	.30	41	49	
Delhi	.24	.38	.47	...220	...233	
Hyderabad	.11	.76	.30	58	66	
Kolkata	...6	.48	.27	78	77	
Lucknow	.10	.36	.45	...124	...194	
Mumbai	...8	.34	.18	65	84	
Pune	.42	.10	100	...233	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.27	.16	39	79	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baran, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 298 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Passengers robbed on Rayalaseema Exp.

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Gold ornaments and other valuables were stolen from passengers aboard the Nizamabad-Tirupati Rayalaseema Express (12794) near the Gooty Junction railway station in Andhra Pradesh early on Tuesday.

According to sources, the train halted at the outer signal of the Gooty Junction railway station to let the Amaravati Express pass.

A group of five persons then stole valuables from seven passengers through the windows around 1.30 a.m.

The passengers were asleep on the side berths.

They lodged complaints with the Government Railway Police after the train reached the Tirupati railway station. "Searches are continuing. Sniffer dogs have also been pressed into service," the South Central Railway official spokesperson said.

15 Maoists evade police twice in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
MAREDUMILLI

A group of 15 Maoists managed to escape in an exchange of fire with the Andhra Pradesh police in the hills of Kakulamamidi in the Maredumilli Agency area in Alluri Sitharama Raju district.

"We deployed our personnel for combing operation after receiving credible input on the presence of Maoists in Y. Ramavaram mandal on April 27. The next day, about 15 Maoists opened fire on our personnel near Kakulamamidi village," Rampachodavaram ASP (Operations) A. Jagadeesh said.

"During the exchange of fire on Monday, the Maoists fled taking advantage of the thick forest cover. Around 2.30 p.m., the same group of Maoists was sighted. "The Maoists opened fire again, leading to a gunfight. None of the police personnel was hurt," he said.

20 arrested on mob lynching charge for fatal assault of man near Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal at a press conference in Mangaluru on Tuesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

The Mangaluru police have invoked the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provision on mob lynching and arrested 20 persons who allegedly assaulted a man resulting in his death at Kudupu under Mangaluru Rural police limits on Sunday.

T. Sachin, 26, an autorickshaw driver and resident of Kudupu, is believed to have initiated the assault, City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal told reporters on Tuesday.

The police suspect at least 25 persons to be involved in the assault.

Though the police registered a case of unnatural death under suspicious circumstances on Sunday, they converted it into a case of mob lynching after the autopsy report confirmed that the death was owing to internal injuries caused by multiple strong blows, shock, and non-availability of immediate medical attention.

The victim, aged between 35 and 40, has been preliminarily identified as Ashraf, a resident of Pulpalli village, Sultan Bathery taluk, Wayanad district, Kerala. His family members have been informed and are en route to Mangaluru for in-person identification and completion of formalities.

Cricket match venue

The police said the victim had gone to the venue of a local cricket match near Bhatra Kallurti temple in Kudupu. A scuffle broke out and it led to him being assaulted by a group of men, the Commissioner said.

The Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and the Democratic Youth Federation of India claim that the victim was assaulted for uttering certain slogans.

The FIR was registered on a complaint by Deepak Kumar, resident of Kulashekara, under Sections 103 (2), 115(2), 189(2), 190, 191 (1), 191(3) and 240 of the BNS.

Mr. Agrawal said several teams were formed to talk to witnesses and identify suspects, to collect and analyse CCTV camera footage from the vicinity, as well as mobile tower dump data.

Other than Sachin, the accused who were arrested by the police are Devadas; Manjunath; Saideep; Nitesh Kumar; Dheekshith Kumar; Sandeep; Vivian Alvares; Sridatta; Rahul; Pradeep Kumar; Manish Shetty; Dhanush; Dheekshith; Kishore Kumar; Yathiraj; Sachin; Anil; Sushanth, and Adarsh.

Four from film producers' association booked

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

An SIT probing a case based on a complaint raised by an actor-producer has filed the chargesheet, arraigning four office-bearers of the Kerala Film Producers Association as accused. Association president Anto Joseph is the key accused, while secretary B. Rakesh is the second accused. Executive committee members Anil Thomas and Ouseppachan Valakkuzhi are the others.

Three killed in rocket propellant unit blast

Lavpreet Kaur
HYDERABAD

Three workers were killed and three sustained injuries following an explosion at a rocket propellant manufacturing unit linked to a defence establishment in Katepalli village, Yadadri Bhongir district of Telangana on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Gunuguntla Sandeep Kumar, Ch. Devi Charan, and Kalvala Naresh. According to the police, the blast was reported in the propellant mixing unit of Premier Explosives Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE
"WITHDRAWAL OF GPA AND JDA"

My Clients **Smt. Munithayamma** & her **10 family members owners,** have entered a **Regd. JDA & GPA on 25-08-2021,** Now, my client since from date of Registration of Documents there is no development took place & both documents are undervalued & referred to the District Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore on the Schedule property as shown below.

In view of above reasons my clients are withdrawing JDA & GPA through this Public Notice. Since, my clients are not interested to continue the JDA and GPA, my clients treat said documents are no more valid and my clients are **TREATING BOTH JDA AND GPA AS INVALID, ILLEGAL AND WITHDRAWN.**

Therefore, Public are hereby noticed that anybody contacting or entering into documents with such person as noted below for any Documentation becomes illegal, invalid & not binding on my clients.

M/S. SAI VIGNESHWARA VENTURES, Firm No. SJN-F-1283-2018-19, Office at No.G-1, Mulberry Lane, Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, Next to Prathibha Jewellary, S.R.Nagar. Richmond Circle. Bangalore-560025. Represented by its Four Partners

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property having in peaceful possession, the property **Sy.No.13/4A, Situated at MADAPPANAHALLI Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore North District, Measuring to an extent of 9 ACRES & 33 GUNTAS,** it is bounded on:

East by: Land belonging to Patalappa,
West by: Land belonging to Sukumar.
North by: Land belonging to Shankar Reddy,
South by: Land belonging to Sukumar & Talwari Inamthi Land.

Advocate for Service:
SRI. M. BHASKARA JOIS ADVOCATE, Office 1st Floor, No 1341/1, "PRANAMYA" 8th 'C' Cross, 2nd Phase, Girinagar, B'lore- 560085. **MOB: 98451-77964**
Dated: 30-04-2025, Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.CE-BRIDGES - 21 / 2024-25

The tender for the work:- Construction of H.L.Bridge over river Gunfa at Ch.31.900 km of Chipat Junction to Baripada-Baghra road in the District of Mayurbhanj under State Plan for the year 2024-25" vide Bid Identification No.CE-BRIDGES-21/2024-25 is hereby cancelled due to Administrative reasons.

68-B: **Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.**

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-27/2025

e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Apple Ber Budded/Grafted Plant the Year-2025-26.

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender from Producers having valid Nursery license on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of **Apple Ber. Budded / Grafted Plant** for the year 2025-26 in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Apple Ber Budded/Grafted Plant for the year - 2025-26
No of work	One
Availability of bid documents in portal	15 hours on dt.28.04.2025 to 17 hours of dt.19.05.2025
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17 hours of dt.19.05.2025
Date and time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hours of dt.20.05.2025

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

CAD-228: **Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.**

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

(ONLINE ONLY)

Tender Notice NIT.No.02/CD/T.No.02/2025-26 Dt.29.04.2025

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** through online only for the following work from **qualified Bidders** having experience in similar nature of works as mentioned under. Tenders will be received upto **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **05.06.2025** and the same will be opened at **15.30** Hrs (as per server system clock) on **06.06.2025.**

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Formation of Internal Roads including Footpath, Storm Water drain, Service Duct and Culverts at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Virudhunagar.	Rs. 5632.10 Lakhs (including GST @18%)	Rs. 28,27,000/-*

* EMD should be paid through Online in the portal **(https:// tntenders.gov.in)**

The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/1783/TENDER/2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS, ODISHA
1ST FLOOR, HOD BUILDING, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF TENDER FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR SUPPLY OF TRIBAL JEWELLERY & DHOKRA CASTING IMPROVED TOOL KIT SETS

No.2892 Date: 25.4.2025

Submission of Tender for selection of agency towards supply of improved toolkits for Tribal Jewellery & Dhokra Casting published vide Tender Notification No-2231 dtd. 27.03.2025 in 03 English Dailies i.e The Times of India, The Hindu & The New Indian Express is **extended up to 09.05.2025 (5:00 PM) and the same will be opened 14.05.2025 at 11 AM.**

Sd/-
PP-04: **Director of Handicrafts, Odisha**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuruzonal office, "Jalabhavan", #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru- 570 009.
Ph no: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
The tender for the work of "Demolition of existing 2.5LL capacity RCC OHT and construction of 5.00LL capacity RCC OHT on 15m staging near St.Joseph's Convent under Improvements of water supply facilities in Madikeri city under Nagarothana (municipality) scheme phase-4" amounting to Rs.126.24 Lakhs (Excluding GST) has been invited vide indent No: KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT 326/CALL-2 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further details may be obtained through KPPP website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, MYSURU.

DIPR/DDMYS/114/KSMCA/92/2024-25

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone No.080-29557023
E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-3/HWC-CKM/TND-CalI-2/2025-26/263 Date: 28.04.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-2

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from Class-II and above contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following works.

Description of works: Construction of Health and Wellness Centers at 1) Kataradahali in Chikkamagaluru Taluk, 2) Bhaktharahalli in Chikkamagaluru Taluk, 3) Pillenahalli in Kadur Taluk, 4) Haadikere in Tarikere Taluk, 5) Bappunji in Koppa Taluk, 6) Hodiyala in N.R Pura Taluk, 7) Kunnalu in Chikkamagaluru District (Call-2). Approximate Value of work: **Rs. 380.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 5.70 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **6 Months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **17.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **19.05.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

Growth pangs

India's industrial sector requires policy intervention amid global turbulence

At 4%, India's fiscal 2025 average of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is at its lowest in the past four years, marking a slowdown in industrial activity. This could be attributed to uncertainties in the global economic outlook leading to tepid goods exports growth, lower than expected consumption demand growth, and a dip in private capital expenditure. While the monthly barometer of the nation's industrial output, the IIP, grew in March to 3% from February's 2.7%, this has been mainly on account of a rise in power production, which cyclically peaks in summer. Power output growth almost doubled between February (3.6%) and March (6.3%). But the fall in the IIP, from 5.9% (2023-24) to 4% (2024-25), warrants a closer look at the sectors that have lagged. While mining steeply declined from 7.5% (FY24) to 2.9% (FY25), manufacturing followed with 5.5% (FY24) and 4% (FY25) and electricity at 7% (FY24) and 5.1% (FY25). What is more significant is the degrowth of -1.6% in fiscal 25 witnessed in consumer non-durables from 4.1% in the previous year. Contrasting this with the growth almost doubling in consumer durables from 3.6% (FY24) to 8% (FY25) likely indicates an uptick in urban private consumption, while lingering effects of high food inflation in the October to December quarter of the last fiscal continue to strain rural consumption. Sure, retail inflation was at its lowest in six years at 4.6% in FY25, aided by steep falls in vegetable prices in the last quarter, but this also heavily impacted farm incomes, further straining rural consumption. While a decrease in the RBI's bank lending rate to 6% in April from 6.5% in January has led to lower capex lending rates across banks, an uncertain economic and trade environment is unlikely to encourage the private sector to raise investment, without substantial domestic consumption impetus from the government.

The flat growth in goods exports in FY25 is another area that must concern policymakers as it indicates considerable strain on India's sprawling small businesses, the MSME sector, that contributes about 45.8% in exports. This sector has witnessed remarkable growth over the past five years, quadrupling in size from about ₹4 lakh crore in FY21 to ₹12 lakh crore in FY25. However, given strained trade relations with the country's largest trading partner, the United States, India must ensure that the Bilateral Trade Agreement that is under negotiation fortifies India's nearly 60 million MSMEs, the vast majority of which are classified as micro industries. Consequently, this will protect the over 250 million jobs that the sector provides.

Liberal rally

Trump influenced Canada election, but not in the way he imagined

When Justin Trudeau resigned as the Prime Minister of Canada in January, it seemed that his party, the Liberals, who were trailing the Conservatives by 25 points in opinion polls, was headed for an electoral debacle. Mr. Trudeau, in power for nearly a decade, had become highly unpopular amid economic woes. Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative leader, built his campaign on a call for change, branding the three consecutive terms of the Liberal party as "the lost decade" for Canada. Yet, in a stunning political turnaround, the Liberal Party beat the Conservatives in the April 28 national election. Two pivotal developments between Mr. Trudeau's exit and the elections reshaped the country's political landscape. First, Mark Carney, an economist and former banker, was chosen as Mr. Trudeau's successor. Mr. Carney distanced himself from Mr. Trudeau's legacy and reframed the election as an opportunity to rebuild Canada's economy. Second, Donald Trump's rhetoric about making Canada "the 51st State" of the U.S. galvanised Canadian nationalism and offered a new purpose and perspective to Mr. Carney's electoral battle. He presented himself as the best candidate equipped to stand up to Mr. Trump's threats and tariffs. His record as a successful central banker who led Canada through the 2008-09 recession and the U.K. through the chaotic Brexit years also helped his cause.

The results were not entirely disappointing for the Conservatives. According to the preliminary figures, the party won 41.4% of the vote, surpassing its 2011 majority with 39.6% votes. But what happened this time was a more unified consolidation of progressive and liberal votes favouring the Liberals. When Mr. Poilievre talked about a crackdown on fentanyl, opposed tax hikes and threatened to withhold federal funding for universities, non-conservative voters saw these as Trump-style rhetoric, and gravitated towards the Liberal Party. The New Democratic Party, led by Jagmeet Singh, saw its vote share plummet from 18% in 2021 to just 6%, while the Liberals surged from 32.6% to 43.5%. While Mr. Carney deserves credit for the turnaround, he should prepare the country for the path ahead. Despite the Liberals' surging popularity, they are still projected to fall short of the 172-seat majority mark in the 343-member Parliament. A coalition government dependent on smaller parties could complicate his legislative ambitions. Moreover, Mr. Carney and Mr. Trump agree that the traditional relationship between Canada and the U.S. is over, which means the leaders will have to launch talks for a new economic and security framework. Mr. Carney must also take swift measures to offset the impact of the Trump tariffs and revitalise economic growth, all the while standing firm against American pressure and for Canada's sovereignty.

A powerful judicial remedy for waste management

Archana Vaidya

is an environment law consultant and an advocate at the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, at Shimla

India is the biggest plastic polluter in the world, according to a new study published in Nature, releasing 9.3 million tonnes (Mt) annually. This is equivalent to around a fifth of global plastic emission. Plastic emissions, according to this study, are defined as material (which includes both debris and open plastic burning) that has moved from managed or mismanaged systems (in which waste is subject to a form of control, however basic contained state) to the unmanaged system (the environment; uncontained state) with no control.

Evidence of an underestimation

The report goes on to say that India reports that its dumpsites (uncontrolled land disposal) outnumber sanitary landfills by 10:1 and, despite the claim that there is a national collection coverage of 95%, there is evidence that official statistics do not include rural areas, open burning of uncollected waste or waste recycled by the informal sector. This means that India's official plastic waste generation rate (approximately 0.12 kilograms per capita per day (kg cap^{-1} day^{-1}) is probably underestimated and waste collection overestimated. According to this study, the plastic waste generation rate for India of 0.54 kg cap^{-1} day^{-1}.

The alarming situation *vis-à-vis* plastic waste in the Indian Himalayan Region was highlighted in an Opinion page article in this daily, "Mountains of plastic are choking the Himalayan States" (March 4, 2024). A salient point was the lack of data regarding the quantum and the quality of waste and the capacity to deal with plastic waste in this region.

Waste generation data regarding the total solid waste and plastic waste in the country is given in the Central Pollution Control Board's annual reports on implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and based on data supplied by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committees (PCC). In turn, these are based on data supplied by the municipal bodies in the respective States/Union Territories. There is nothing in any of the reports regarding the methodology adopted by SPCBs or PCCs or municipal bodies or any waste audit which explains how the figures have been arrived at. It is important that the methodology employed by whatever agency that is gathering the data is put out in the public domain and faces third party scrutiny so that the systems we create or propose to create for waste management are commensurate with the quantity and the nature of the waste that needs managing and processing. There is no accounting of waste being generated in rural India it seems, which comes under panchayati raj institutions, and also for a vast stretch of the country which does not come under the jurisdiction of any institutions of local self-governance.

> Continuing mandamus could be the way forward to combat India's giant waste management problem

The Supreme Court of India has observed that environmental protection is not only a regulatory obligation but also a constitutional imperative aimed at safeguarding the fundamental rights of individuals and preserving ecological balance.

There is an urgent need that we have cogent, reliable data about waste generation and its composition in the country. We also need to have data regarding the infrastructure that the country has built over the years to deal with the management and processing of this waste. This infrastructure could be geotagged to help in tracking. Every local government, whether in an urban or in rural area (they are the pivot of waste management as in the legal mandate in the country), has to be mandatorily linked with a material recovery facility (MRF), recyclers of various waste streams, extended producer responsibility (EPR) kiosks and sanitary landfills.

To operationalise EPR, all producers, importers, and brand owners (PIBOs) that have a legal obligation collectively can form kiosks across the country to gather waste from all local bodies. These kiosks could be set up depending on the quantum of waste expected, the geography of the area, and ease of access to these kiosks and other relevant factors. This is so that every urban and rural local body in the country has easy access to these kiosks where all waste that is covered under EPR can be deposited. PIBOs can employ people to segregate their waste at such kiosks so that various segments of waste can be taken care of according to the mandate of the law. This is not a simple exercise. But it is not not impossible either if there is a plan.

We need to know how much waste is being generated where and how it is being managed. As India is a technology powerhouse, it is time that we leverage this to solve our problems and set an example for the world.

Court verdict on tanneries

On January 31, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court gave a very heartening verdict in the form of continuing mandamus to ensure that the pollution caused by tanneries in Vellore of Tamil Nadu is reversed by employing necessary remediation programmes. The Court has constituted a committee that needs to report in four months on the compliance of the order. The Court itself has justified the need to ensure compliance. The Bench said, 'violations occur while various Supreme Court directives and environmental norms are flouted, and the schemes or plans framed by the Government remain on paper, failing to achieve any meaningful results. Thus, this Court, being the custodian of fundamental rights, must come to the rescue of the affected individuals/families and ensure that persistent wrongs are rectified and justice is actually done'.

It is absolutely imperative that constitutional courts in India adopt this approach and deal with matters of waste management in the same spirit. Justice will only be done in these matters when compliance with orders is ensured in a time-bound manner.

Focus on the polluter

The Court in the same matter reiterated that "the polluter pays principle" casts absolute liability on the polluter for the harm caused to the environment and extends not only to compensate the victims of pollution but also the cost of restoring the environmental degradation. Remediation of the damaged environment is part of the process of sustainable development, and such a polluter is liable to pay the cost to the individual sufferers as well as the cost of reversing damaged ecology. The Court has held that when there is a violation in compliance with the environmental laws (be it a result of engaging in activities directly involved in causing pollution or from a failure to take steps to curb pollution and restore the environment or violating any terms of licence granted by any State or central authority and acts detrimental to the environment, the effect of which causes or is likely to cause degradation of the environment), then the deeming fiction of polluting the environment becomes applicable. The polluter is not only liable to payment of compensation but has also to restore the environment.

Therefore, while the liability is clear, the process of determining an equitable compensation amount is fraught with challenges, as it must account for both the tangible and intangible damage inflicted on the environment and the affected communities. In this matter the Court applied the Government Pay Principle, and it is for the government to pay compensation to the affected individuals/families and recover the same from the polluters, until the damage caused to the ecology is fully reversed.

It is time that the waste management system in the country is also held accountable to millions whose health is impacted by the land, water and air pollution caused by unmanaged and mismanaged waste all across the country .

In fact, continuing mandamus could be the way forward to deal with pressing environmental issues to ensure compliance.

A Sri Lankan anti-terror law that needs repeal

M.A. Sumanthiran

is a President's Counsel practising at Sri Lanka's Supreme Court, a former Member of Parliament of Jaffna, and the General Secretary of the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi

In the many cycles of violence in Sri Lanka's troubled history, "terror" has been a running theme. While the state – that has repeatedly demonstrated a majoritarian tendency – has never held a mirror to itself to acknowledge the violence that it has unleashed on civilians, it has often sought to justify using draconian measures to "counter" or "crush" anything that it deems "terror".

If there is one law in Sri Lanka that has received constant attention over the last half century in this regard, it is the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) passed in 1979, during the presidency of J.R. Jayawardene. It was modelled on South African legislation from the Apartheid era and British laws against Irish militancy, and replaced another law titled Proscribing of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and Other Similar Organizations Law of 1978.

The intention was very clear: to eradicate the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and other organisations that sought to create a separate Tamil state on the island. Originally envisaged as a temporary provisions law for a period of three years, it became a permanent fixture in Sri Lanka's statute books in 1982.

Applied with impunity

The provisions of this law include administrative detention for long periods without judicial oversight; confessions made to police officers being admissible evidence, and failure to give information to the police being made an offence. Needless to say, these provisions are abused widely, with obvious impunity. Impunity, because even in cases where it was established that false and fabricated evidence was presented to court, law enforcement authorities faced no consequence. The cases merely failed, but errant police officers who fabricated evidence and worse, who tortured to elicit confessions, went scot-free.

There was yet another outcome, which was actually a security nightmare. When police officers found an easy way to "solve terrorist crimes", they did not investigate to find the actual culprits. Confessions were obtained from even those who were not actually involved in the offence. They were convicted while the real culprits remained at large. We have also seen several cases where innocent persons have been charged for 'not giving information' to the police. All you require is a forced confession from them to that effect and they would be sentenced.

> The Sri Lankan government must translate its pre-election rhetoric into reality, and end the Prevention of Terrorism Act

For decades now, rights defenders in Sri Lanka have fiercely opposed the PTA. Lawyers have highlighted the availability of provisions in ordinary law to deal with serious threats and offences to the country's peace and security. Many countries committed to democracy have raised concerns over the piece of legislation and its impact on human rights and democratic freedoms. The European Union suspended the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)+ preferential status for Sri Lanka in 2010 on account of it not being repealed as promised.

As is common with draconian legislation anywhere, the PTA, too, is also used selectively against the government's political opponents, dissidents, and minority groups. Many human rights activists and journalists have been targeted. In 2009, well-known journalist J.S. Tissainayagam was sentenced to 20 years in prison for publishing an article in an obscure journal accusing the government of starving the Tamil population during the war. (He was pardoned and released subsequently after intense international pressure.) The charge against him was that the article could have caused communal disharmony.

A continuance with minor amendments

Successive governments in Colombo have promised to repeal the PTA – at least after the end of the war in 2009 – but the law still remains, with some cosmetic amendments. There was a moratorium announced on its use, but even a few weeks ago, arrests were made under this law.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's ruling National People's Power (NPP) government has repeatedly vowed to repeal the PTA, both during its election campaign and since coming to power. Its pledge was taken more seriously, given that its own party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (chief political constituent of the NPP) suffered immensely around its second armed uprising in 1987-1990. Although the PTA was initially brought to suppress Tamil militants, the state did not hesitate to use it against the Sinhalese, especially JVP cadre challenging it. More recently, the law has been used to target Muslims after the Easter Sunday Attacks in 2019.

Campaign for a repeal

In 2021, this writer led an island-wide signature campaign to repeal the PTA, along with colleagues in Parliament and rights activists. It was reassuring to see people from all ethnic communities supporting the call to repeal the piece of legislation. NPP members too participated in all districts, emphatically backing the call for its repeal. Yet, when it has fallen into its own hands to repeal it fully, the NPP too appears reluctant, perhaps because the security sector that has (ab)used the legislation for so long is not willing to part with it.

Apart from constituting a committee to look into the possible repeal of the PTA, the government is yet to take any significant step towards it.

While in the opposition, the NPP steadfastly refused to join any discussion on replacing this law with another 'humanitarian law' on the basis that the PTA must be repealed *in toto*. But now in the seat of power, it too has started talking about another law that will be drafted to replace the PTA. Previously, two 'replacement' drafts were put out by two successive governments. Both drew widespread criticism from human rights activists who contended that they were, in fact, worse than the PTA itself.

We are watching the NPP's moves on its own promise to repeal this dangerous piece of legislation that, without doubt, must go. Repealing the PTA is the best test one can put to the government to see whether it can translate its pre-poll rhetoric into action.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continue immunisation

The warning sounded by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), in the context of World Immunization Week, April 24-30, of 'increases in vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks threatening years of progress', is one that should not be ignored under any circumstances. Neglecting this could be catastrophic for the world. All children and adults (especially women) should be immunised according to the latest national immunisation schedule sanctioned by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and ICMR. The Government of India must ensure that there is no slowing down of immunisation coverage.

Dr. Sunil Chopra,
Ludhiana, Punjab

Stray dog issue

As an octogenarian veterinarian, I have been keenly following the narratives on the stray dog problem. Unfortunately, implementation of vaccination and sterilisation has not been as robust as it should have been, with concerns about inadequate outreach and sterilisation rates. A significant proportion of dogs remain reproductively active. As human health and life are important, this is an issue that has to be tackled through a more stringent and practical approach. Dog shelters can be set up in each corporation zone, roping in even corporates under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. In many countries even pets are not allowed loose on a street.

Dr. T.N. Varadarajan,
Chennai

Shaji N. Karun

Shaji N. Karun, one among the pantheon of great film-makers, has become a glowing chapter in Kerala's rich film history. As a director and cinematographer, he excelled in both worlds. With his classic films such as *Swaham*, *Piravi* and *Vanaprastham*, he made an indelible mark in world cinema. And, while at the Kerala State Chalachithra Academy and Kerala State Film Development Corporation, he proved to be an institution builder.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Expanding tree cover is crucial

B.B.L. Madhukar

Chairman, FORE School of Management, and Director General, BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry

As climate change accelerates, tree plantation and carbon sequestration are essential for environmental sustainability. For India, a rapidly growing economy reliant on carbon-intensive industries, expanding tree cover is crucial for mitigating climate change while supporting industrial growth and rural livelihoods.

India's forest and tree cover is 25.17%, significantly below the 33% target set by the National Forest Policy of 1988. This shortfall has serious implications, as deforestation, rapid urbanisation, and industrial emissions continue to degrade ecosystems.

Accelerating afforestation

Tree plantations act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2). However, in India, this sequestration potential needs to be enhanced through large-scale afforestation programmes. Beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increased tree cover improves soil health, recharges groundwater, retains water, reduces soil erosion, and enhances resilience against extreme weather events.

Recognising this, India has introduced several policies and initiatives to accelerate afforestation efforts. The National Agroforestry Policy (2014) and the Trees Outside Forests in India Program encourage private landowners, farmers, and industries to participate in large-scale tree planting. They aim to reduce dependence on natural forests for timber and fuelwood, restore degraded ecosystems, and provide additional income sources for rural communities.

The Green India Mission, part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, has been instrumental in reviving degraded forests and promoting sustainable forest management. According to government data, GIM has helped increase forest cover by 0.56% between 2017 and 2021.

Corporate social responsibility initiatives have also contributed to large-scale tree plantation drives. Companies in sectors such as automobile manufacturing, cement, and energy have undertaken afforestation projects to offset emissions. Many corporations are also integrating afforestation efforts into their carbon credit strategies, allowing them to claim emission reductions while restoring ecosystems.

Indian industries face growing pressure to reduce their carbon footprint due to stringent international regulations. The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, set to be enforced in 2026, will impose tariffs on carbon-intensive imports such as steel, cement, and aluminium. As trade between India and the EU reached €124 billion in 2023, these tariffs could greatly impact Indian exporters.

To remain competitive in global markets, industries are increasingly investing in carbon-offset projects, including large-scale tree plantations. Such investments help companies align with global sustainability standards, earn carbon credits under frameworks such as the Verified Carbon Standard and Clean Development Mechanism, and offset emissions in a cost-effective manner instead of purchasing expensive international carbon credits.

Sustainability is no longer about regulatory compliance – it has become a strategic advantage. Companies are integrating sustainability into their operations by developing green supply chains, sourcing raw materials from sustainable forestry projects, and implementing energy-efficient manufacturing processes. With global capital markets increasingly favouring environmental, social, and governance principles, Indian industries must adapt to maintain their market position.

Tree plantations also offer economic and social benefits. Large-scale afforestation initiatives create millions of jobs, especially in nursery management, forest conservation, and agroforestry. These are particularly vital for rural communities. Agroforestry, which integrates trees into agricultural systems, is a particularly promising approach. It enhances soil fertility by improving nutrient cycling, provides additional income from timber, fruits, and medicinal plants, and increases resilience to droughts and erratic weather conditions. A study by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research found that agroforestry can increase farm incomes by 20-30%.

To support community-led afforestation, government and non-governmental organisations have stepped in to provide financial incentives, training and capacity-building programmes to educate farmers and rural workers, and market linkages to help communities sell forest-based products. These foster a sense of responsibility and ownership.

Policy recommendations

Despite its benefits, large-scale tree plantation faces several challenges. One is the rising cost of carbon credits. In 2023, the average price of carbon credits under the EU Emissions Trading System was €83 per tonne of CO_2 . For Indian businesses, investing in afforestation offers a more cost-effective solution than purchasing expensive carbon credits from international markets. Another challenge is the absence of a robust carbon trading policy in India. To fully capitalise on global carbon markets, India must establish a transparent national carbon credit registry, a well-defined regulatory framework under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and financial incentives to encourage private-sector investments in afforestation.

As India strives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, tree plantations and carbon sequestration will be key pillars of its sustainability strategy

Needed: More than just a name change

The Tamil Nadu government has been unable to effectively remove caste signifiers

STATE OF PLAY

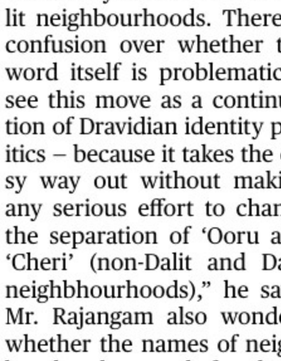
Udhav Naig
Aravind Kumar B.

P. Krishnaveni, an 81-year old retired school teacher, remembers how her village in Theni district in Tamil Nadu was stratified 70 years ago. Each caste had its own street. Scheduled Castes (SCs) lived away from the village and each street in an SC neighbourhood was named after a particular SC sub-caste, she says.

Similarly, Sarojini Devi, a home-maker in her late sixties, who is from another village in the same district, recalls the 13 SC families who lived farther away from the main village. She says SC dwellings came to be referred to as 'colonies' after the law made it illegal to refer to their place of dwelling with caste names.

Now, caste Hindus may have to stop using that term. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced in the Legislative Assembly that steps will be taken to remove the caste-coded word, in Tamil Nadu's context, from official government documents and public use. The word 'colony', which has become a slur to denote the neighbourhoods inhabited by SCs, is still used in most villages across the State. While other castes live on the main streets of the villages, SCs live in 'colonies', away from them.

While the intention may be laudable, Dalit activists say the government has been unable to effectively implement its policy of removing caste signifiers. "Earlier, 'colony' was associated with colonial rule and was used in a derogatory sense to describe the exploitation of backward or weaker



peoples by a dominant power," says Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi general secretary and Villupuram MP, D. Ravikumar. "After Independence, the word came to be used to identify the habitations of Dalits, indirectly marking these settlements as those of an enslaved people." Mr. Ravikumar says while his party welcomes Mr. Stalin's announcement, it is important to see what the Government Order says.

Writer and historian Stalin Rajangam says the word 'colony' has different meanings in urban and rural areas. "In cities, colonies are a part of modernity. There is, for instance, an Electricity Board colony. In the rural context, colonies are exclusively used to refer to Dalit neighbourhoods. There is confusion over whether the word itself is problematic. I see this move as a continuation of Dravidian identity politics – because it takes the easy way out without making any serious effort to change the separation of 'Ooru and 'Cheri' (non-Dalit and Dalit neighbhourhoods)," he says. Mr. Rajangam also wonders whether the names of neighbourhoods named after dominant and privileged castes – for instance, Naidupuram – will ever be renamed. "I don't oppose this announcement, but I don't think this is a significant step towards annihilating caste," he says.

Mr. Ravikumar recalls that in 1978, the AIADMK government, headed by its founder and then Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, had initiated efforts to drop the caste names of leaders and prominent personalities from the boards of streets named after them on account of Periyar's birth centenary celebrations. However, the policy has never been implemented effectively.

In August 2021, Mr. Ravikumar wrote a letter to Mr. Stalin urging him to reinforce the Government Order published in 1978. "Apart from the name boards set up by the Tamil Nadu government, the name boards being set up by private individuals for new neighbourhoods shouldn't have caste names. Similarly, caste names should be removed from the names of educational institutions and restaurants," he wrote in the letter. He adds that when caste names are not removed from street names and become part of official documents such as Aadhaar and passports, they help people easily ascertain the caste identities of people.

In the Dravidian era, SCs have achieved economic growth and have made significant strides in education, but continue to face violence and discrimination from caste Hindus. Tamil Nadu recorded a rise in crimes against SCs and Scheduled Tribes between 2000 and 2022. In this context, the move to remove the word 'colony' can be seen in positive light only if the government addresses other urgent demands, such as the enactment of a law to protect inter-caste couples from violence. In addition to cosmetic attempts, it is crucial that the government makes comprehensive efforts to address the myriad issues of SCs today.,

udhav.naig@thehindu.co.in;
aravind.b@thehindu.co.in

Liberals ride the anti-Trump wave to victory in Canada

Canadians did not take Trump's threats to their economy and sovereignty lightly, and sided with the Liberals in a dramatic turnaround

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

It is rare for the results of an elections in one country to be swayed by the leader of a neighbouring country. Yet that was the case in Canada's 2025 federal election, where U.S. President Donald Trump's statements and actions dramatically shifted the national mood within days. While the Conservative Party was expected to win decisively, Mr. Trump's tariffs and his provocative suggestion of annexing Canada helped rescue the Liberal Party from a crushing defeat.

Chart 1 shows the voting intentions of Canadians based on opinion polls conducted during the campaign period. The lines represent the average of 30 polls conducted between 2021 and 2025. As the chart illustrates, towards the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, support for the Conservatives began rising, while support for the Liberal Party started declining. This marked shift can be attributed to the unpopularity of former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose fiscal policies and generous immigration stance faced heavy criticism.

Just before Mr. Trudeau resigned in January this year, popular support for the Liberal Party had fallen to 20% – the lowest level for the party in years. In contrast, support for Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party had surged to 45%. Barring any dramatic shifts, the Conservatives appeared poised for victory.

However, shortly after Mr. Trudeau's exit and more significantly after Mr. Trump's return to the White House was confirmed in February, there was a dramatic rise in support for the Liberals, as seen in Chart 1. From last December, Mr. Trump repeatedly reiterated his claims about annexing Canada. In March, he announced tariffs of 25% targeting Canada and Mexico. Canadians did not take these threats to their economy and sovereignty lightly.

More importantly, sensing the shift in public mood, the Liberals centred their election campaign around the theme of 'American betrayal'. In contrast, Mr. Poilievre's slogan 'Canada First' and promises appeared uncomfortably close to Mr. Trump's promises in the eyes of many voters.

While the Liberal Party has started celebrating, the party is still short of the majority mark and may need help from smaller parties to form the government. The party's former ally – the New Democratic Party (NDP) – suffered a massive setback this election, possibly because most of its voters backed the Liberals this time.

As shown in **Chart 2**, the NDP recorded a 11.6% point drop in vote share compared to the 2021 elections. While the vote share of the Liberal Party rose by nearly 11% points, the Conservative Party also managed a 7.7% point increase. But this was not enough to derail the resurgence of the Liberals.

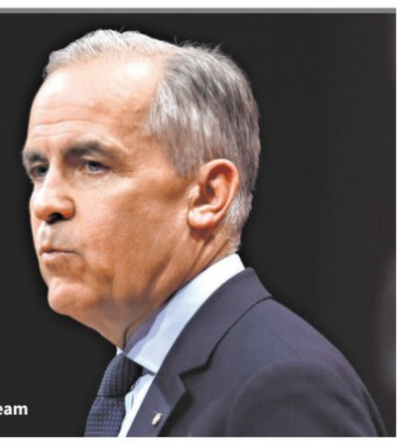
The Liberals are projected to win 69 seats in Ontario – fewer than the 78 they had secured in 2021 – a minor setback amid the national victory. In this province, the Conservatives have improved their performance and are projected to win 53 seats, up from 37.

In Quebec, the Liberals appear to have eaten into the vote share of the Bloc Québécois. This party's main plank is Quebec's secession from Canada. The Liberals are projected to win 43 seats in the province, up from 35 in the last election, while the Bloc Québécois seat share is set to fall to 11 from 32.

In British Columbia, the New Democrats, who had won 13 seats last time, are expected to secure only three. Meanwhile, the Liberals are projected to increase their tally from 15 to 20 seats, and the Conservatives from 13 to 19. **Chart 3** shows the province-wise seats secured by parties in the 2025 election.

Liberals snatch win from jaws of defeat

The average of 30 opinion polls forms the data of Chart 1. The data for Charts 2 and 3 were taken from Elections Canada. On the right is Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney whose Liberal Party won the election. Sensing the shift in public mood, the Liberals centered their election campaign around the theme of "American betrayal".



With inputs from Raida N.M. and R.P. Josmani Joan, who are interning with the data team

Chart 1: The voting intentions of Canadians based on opinion polls conducted during the campaign period

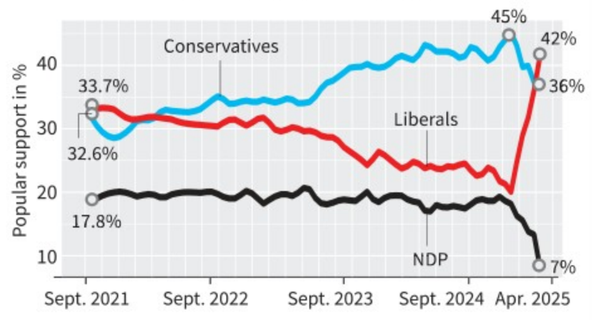


Chart 2: The change in vote share (in % points) in the 2025 elections when compared with 2021

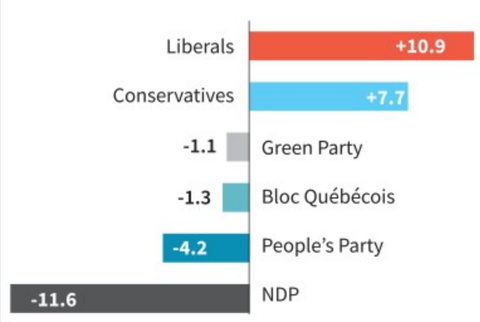
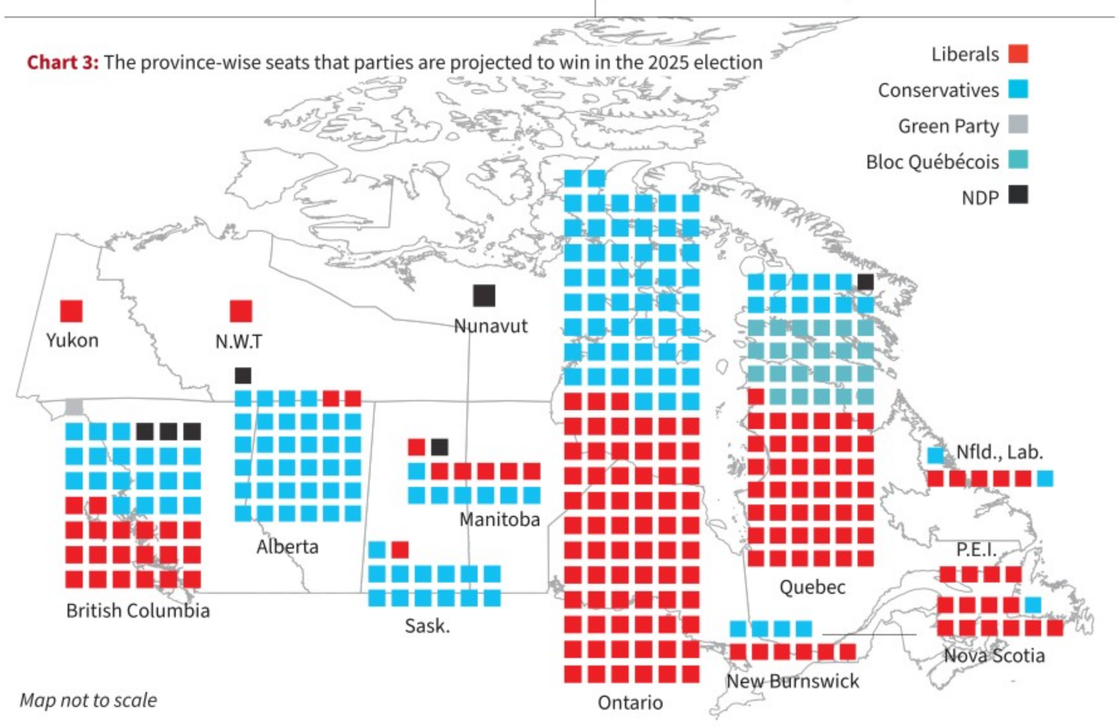


Chart 3: The province-wise seats that parties are projected to win in the 2025 election



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 30, 1975

No signatures on ballot papers: plea conceded

New Delhi, April 29: The system of obtaining the signatures of voters or their thumb impressions on the counterfoils of the ballot papers will be done away with. This decision was announced by Mr. H.R. Gokhale, Union Minister for Justice, at the conclusion of his second round of discussions with the Opposition leaders on electoral reforms to-day.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Congress, Congress-O, DMK, ADMK, CPI, CPM, Socialist Party, Jan Sangh, BLD, Muslim League and the Republican Party. Mr. P.G. Mavlankar represented the independents.

The Cabinet Ministers who were present during the talks were Messrs. Jagjivan Ram, Swaran Singh, Uma Shankar Dikshit, K. Raghuramiah and H.R. Gokhale, who led the discussions. Mr. Om Mehta, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, and Mrs. A. Sarojini Mahishi, Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice, were present.

Mr. Gokhale readily conceded the demand that obtaining of signatures or thumb impressions had a tendency to violate secrecy of the ballot. The Government, he said, was not prepared to accept this complaint but if they had any such apprehension, it had no objection to give up this process. This system was introduced only in 1973. The Opposition leaders very happy that the Government had conceded their demand.

The Opposition parties made it clear that they were not prepared to discuss in isolation the more vital question relating to increase in the ceiling fixed on election expenses. They did not want that the law should be changed just now to be made applicable to the Gujarat elections. They maintained that election expenses by political parties and candidates should be gone into thoroughly. Even though Mr. Gokhale was willing to discuss the issue to-day, the Opposition leaders wanted him to defer it to a later date.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 30, 1925

Small pox in Calcutta

Calcutta, April 29: At a meeting of the Calcutta Corporation to-day, it was announced that there had been a marked decline in mortality from small-pox. The number of deaths recorded during the week ending April 25th was only 147 as against 233 in the preceding week.

From Page One

Forces have a free hand to respond to terror: PM

"During the night of April 28-29, Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control in areas opposite Kupwara and Baramulla districts, as well as the Akhnoor sector," the Army said. "Indian Army responded in a measured and effective manner to the provocation."

Also on Tuesday, Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a meeting attended by the Directors General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Assam Rifles, and the National Security Guard (NSG) and senior officials of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). A senior government official said that the security forces were asked to be on alert and maintain highest vigil at the borders.

Meanwhile, in a rare development, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat met Mr. Modi at his official residence on Tuesday.

According to sources in the RSS, the meeting lasted for more than an hour, and was primarily revolving around the security situation in Kashmir and India's potential response to the terror attack. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was also part of the deliberations.

(With inputs from Ishita Mishra)

UN chief calls for talks between India, Pakistan

Tensions have escalated between India and Pakistan after terrorists opened fire in Pahalgam on April 22, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in what is the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.

India downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures, including expulsion of Pakistani military attachés, suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post.

Mr. Guterres has said he is following the situation between India and Pakistan "very closely and with very great concern" and has appealed to both governments to exercise maximum restraint and to ensure there is no further deterioration.

The UN chief again conveyed his solidarity with the families of the victims of the terror attack and "underscores the importance of accountability and justice."

What's wrong with using Pegasus: SC

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta interjected during the nearly 20-minute hearing, which came a few days after the Pahalgam terror attack, to agree that "terrorists cannot have any privacy rights".

The petitioners, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Shyam Divan, Mr. Dwivedi, and others, have sought disclosure of the final findings of a top court-appointed technical committee, which had conducted digital forensics to detect malware on mobile phones submitted to it.

Mr. Sibal, appearing for journalist-petitioner Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, said there was added proof now in the form of a U.S. District Court decision which said India was one of the countries in which Pegasus was employed for surveillance. He sought the release of redacted copies of the technical committee report in order to at least know if Pegasus was used on the phones that were submitted for examination.

However, the court firmly said these were in the realm of allegations, and it would "not disclose even a single word which may affect the sovereignty and security of the nation".

"But if anyone has apprehensions, they must be adequately responded to. But it should not be made a document of discussion in the streets. Where individuals have been affected, we will examine the question of release of those portions [in the report], provided they do not affect the security of the nation... With the scenario happening now, we have to be careful," Justice Kant said.

The judge agreed that the persons who had apprehended Pegasus surveillance and submitted their phones for checking were entitled to know "whether they were hacked or saved from it".

Mr. Divan said the issue was very serious if the State had used the spyware to spy on its own citizens. "This is a very serious situation. I can show that this particular spyware was used against citizens of India, against journalists, including judges. We have repeatedly been asking for a listing of the case. The entire report should be placed in the public domain. It is an open court system here," Mr. Divan persisted.

The Bench asked the lawyers to provide a list of names of those who, apprehending that they were hacked by Pegasus, had submitted their phones to the technical committee. "Some individuals want to know from the report 'whether I am saved or not'... You are entitled to know from the report whether you were hacked or not. To that extent, we can tell whether you are saved or hacked. It can be an objective exercise... You can ask 'am I there in the surveillance – yes or no?' If no, you are saved," Justice Kant observed.

The petitioners had also asked for copies of a separate report submitted to the top court by former Supreme Court judge, Justice R.V. Raveendran, with suggestions to enhance existing laws and procedures related to surveillance and securing rights, including privacy, cyber security, etc. These reports were handed over to the Supreme Court in sealed covers almost three years ago.

The court listed the case on July 30 for further hearing.

SC refuses Sanjiv Bhatt's plea for bail in 1990 case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the expedited hearing of a criminal appeal filed by former Indian Police Service officer Sanjiv Bhatt, while rejecting his plea for interim bail and suspension of life sentence in a 1990 custodial death case.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said, "We are not inclined to enlarge the appellant on bail...however, the hearing of the appeal is directed to be expedited." Justice Mehta pronounced the verdict.

The judgment was based on an application made by Bhatt challenging the Gujarat High Court's January 2024 verdict, which had affirmed the conviction and life sentence imposed on Bhatt by the Jamnagar sessions court in 2019.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Devadatt Kamat, along with advocates Rajesh G. Inamdar and Shashwat Anand, appearing for Bhatt, had emphasised the prolonged incarceration of over five years and the absence of direct medical evidence linking Bhatt to the alleged torture, arguing that the conviction was not sustainable.

Modi greets Carney, signalling a reset in India-Canada relations

PM's reference to the two countries sharing 'democratic values' with 'commitment to rule of law' paints a significant picture of political hope for positive bilateral ties, after two years of tensions following allegations in the Hardeep Nijjar killing case

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the re-election of the Liberal Party in Canada, highlighting the ties of New Delhi and Ottawa in upholding democratic values. The comments, a rare positive exchange between the two countries in over two years, indicate the possibility of a reset in ties as the Carney government takes shape.

Mr. Carney's takeover from the former PM Justin Trudeau, who had tense relations with the Indian government, signals a warm development in bilateral ties. Last week, Mr. Carney, who was in the midst of campaigning, had posted a message on social media condemning the Pahalgam terrorist attack. Additionally, the poor electoral result of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the resignation of its leader Jagmeet Singh, who had pro-Khalistan sympathies, also suggest an opportunity to restore ties.

Warming up: Prime Minister Narendra Modi says India and Canada have vibrant people-to-people ties. FILE PHOTO

"India and Canada are bound by shared democratic values, a steadfast commitment to the rule of law, and vibrant people-to-people ties," Mr. Modi wrote in a post on X. "I look forward to working with you to strengthen our partnership and unlock greater opportunities for our people," he said, addressing the new Canadian head of government.

Mr. Modi's reference to the "rule of law" is significant, given Canada's accusation that Indian government agents were involved in the June 2023 killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This allegation triggered several tit-for-tat measures, including the expulsion of envoys from each other's embassies.

In the first sign of a thaw, New Delhi has forwarded the paperwork for its next High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, who is currently India's Ambassador to Spain. Sources told *The Hindu* that both Canada and India are expected to begin work on returning other diplomats to their respective capitals, replacing those who had been expelled.

All eyes will be on whether Mr. Carney, a former Governor of the Bank of Canada and previously the Bank of England, will restart talks on the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) trade pact, which were suspended after the Nijjar investigation began. Another point of interest is whether he will invite India as a special guest to the G7 Summit he is set to host in Canadian city of Alberta later this year.

"Carney has the opportunity to fix what Trudeau broke. India has already signalled it is willing to engage constructively with the new government. The two countries can move ahead pragmatically, rebuild trust, bolster economic ties, engage on security issues and reboot the stalled trade agreement," said former High Commissioner to Canada Ajay Bisaria, calling this an "inflection point" in the India-Canada relationship.

In Canada, analysts are urging the new Carney government to prioritise re-engaging with India. According to former diplomat David McKinnon, however "serious" the Nijjar case may be, it should not "dictate the entirety" of Canadian foreign policy.

"We must stay focused on the bigger picture: an unstable, rapidly evolving global order where economic and security partnerships are more essential than ever. Letting investigations and court proceedings unfold without unnecessary political interference is key to restoring dialogue and finding a potential way out – just as it was in a related case in the United States," Mr. McKinnon wrote in an analysis for the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada think-tank.

Mr. Carney's unexpected leadership role and the Liberals' unprecedented win are attributed partly to a Canadian backlash against the U.S.'s coercive economic measures under the Trump administration. On the campaign trail, he had said he would seek to diversify ties with "like-minded countries".

"There are opportunities to rebuild the relationship with India. There needs to be a shared sense of values around that commercial relationship, and if I am Prime Minister, I look forward to the opportunity to build that," he said at a campaign event.

Cyberattacks by Pak. groups on 4 defence facilities thwarted

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Intelligence sources say the attacks were carried by a group under the name 'IOK Hacker' or 'Internet of Khilafah'

Amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, cyberattacks were reported on the websites of four institutions associated with the armed forces. The cyberattacks originated from Pakistan, official sources said.

Intelligence assessments confirmed four related incidents, including cyberattacks on the websites of the Army Public School in Srinagar and Ranikhet, both of which were targeted with inflammatory propaganda, while the school in Srinagar also faced a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack, Army sources said. "They could deface the homepage, and caused distributed denial of services. However, it was quickly rectified by the web managers," a source said.

An attempted breach of the Army Welfare Housing Organisation database was also detected, while an effort was made to compromise the Indian Air Force Placement Organisation portal, the source stated. "All four sites were promptly isolated, and restorative action was undertaken; no operational or classified networks were affected at any stage," the source said. These attacks on publicly accessible welfare and educational websites appeared to have been done after mission-critical national networks were found impenetrable, the source observed.

Intelligence assessments ascertained that the attacks were carried by a group under the name 'IOK Hacker' or the 'Internet of Khilafah'.

National Archives acquires private papers of Kalam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired the private papers of former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

The collection, which includes lectures delivered by Dr. Kalam in various universities, his Aadhaar card, passport, PAN card and many original photographs, was donated by A.P.J.M. Nazema Maraikayar, his niece, and A.P.J.M.J. Sheik Saleem, his grand-nephew, to the NAI.

The agreement to acquire the collection was signed by Arun Singhal, Director-General, NAI, with Ms. Maraikayar at a function on Monday.

Dr. Kalam, an eminent scientist known as the "Missile Man of India", served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born on October 15, 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

He played a pivotal role in the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests. He authored several influential books such as *Wings of Fire*, *Ignited Minds* and *India 2020*. The former President passed away in July 2015.

NAI Director General Arun Singhal and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's niece A.P.J.M. Nazema Maraikayar sign an agreement in New Delhi. PIB

Known as the "People's President" for his humble and approachable nature, Dr. Kalam dedicated his post-presidency years to education and mentoring young minds. His life remains a symbol of simplicity, perseverance, and visionary leadership, the NAI said.

The NAI is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers, according to the provisions of the Public Records Act, 1993.

A senior NAI official said the organisation was in the process of assembling a collection of documents of former Presidents.

He added that the organisation already possesses documents related to former Presidents such as Dr. Rajendra Prasad and V.V. Giri.

At UN, India says Pakistan exposed as 'rogue State'

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has said that the open confession of Pakistan's Defence Minister admitting to his country's history of supporting and funding terrorist organisations exposes Pakistan as a "rogue State" fuelling global terrorism and destabilising the region.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), Ambassador Yojna Patel, delivered a strong Right of Reply at the hybrid launch event for the 'Victims of Terrorism Association Network' (VoTAN) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism in New York on Monday when Pakistan's delegate made a reference to the Pahalgam terror attack. "It is unfortunate that one particular delegation has chosen to misuse and undermine this forum to indulge in propaganda and make baseless allegations against India," she said.

Two-day online camp to help teens build resilience and a positive mindset

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In today's fast-paced environment, teenagers often juggle parental expectations, significant screen time, and complex social pressures, sometimes lacking the tools to manage them effectively. The "Imparting Positivity" camp, presented by MiTran Global in partnership with *The Hindu*, offers a valuable opportunity for students to pause and refocus. This professionally designed weekend programme aims to help students rediscover their confidence, enhance their focus, and develop into emotionally strong, self-aware individuals.

MiTran Global
Every child has the right to feel #positive
imparting positivity camp for teens
FUELING GROWTH THROUGH THE POWER OF POSITIVITY
Media Partner
THE HINDU

This camp is designed to provide teenagers with clarity, confidence, and practical tools to actively guide their personal growth.

Each session is limited to 25 students to ensure focused interaction, effective peer learning, and expert facilitation.

Participants receive structured guidance through proven modules covering essential mindset and learning techniques, backed by principles of positive psychology and neuroscience. Teens will walk away with a renewed sense of purpose, a workbook for continued learning, and a certificate acknowledging their participation and achievement. Register early to secure a seat, as the first 11 registrants will also receive a complimentary copy of the popular *I Love Exams* book.

The camp will be led by Vidyashankar Guru, an experienced educator and the co-founder and chief vision officer of MiTran Global. It is designed for students aged 11 to 17 and will be conducted through interactive online sessions on May 3 and May 4.

Students may choose from slots between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on both days. The camp fee is ₹1,999. For further information, contact 74832 62507.

Registration can be done at hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc or by scanning the QR code.

Key modules will cover vital skills such as facing challenges positively, approaching obstacles with strategic thinking, effective goal setting, and maintaining focus without distractions.

SC mulls clubbing FIRs against Sharjeel Imam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday made oral observations in favour of clubbing sedition FIRs registered across multiple States against former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Sharjeel Imam and transferring them to Delhi.

The Bench, headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna, remarked that all the cases arose from one speech and dealt with the same offence.

APPEAL

Haritharan is 13 years old suffering from Dilated Cardio Myopathy. He requires Heart Transplantation at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. He is studying in 8th std at Pichavaram, Cuddalore. His father is a Truck Driver and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs.20,00,000/-. His family is extremely poor and finding it difficult to afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C.No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph:044-42137401/31523781/7338978027.**

E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

Website: WWW.womenswelfaresyndiate.org.

WWS

India must oppose fresh IMF assistance to Pakistan: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said it expected India to strongly oppose any possible International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance to Pakistan, which the multilateral agency could take up at its Board meeting on May 9.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X, said the IMF's Executive Board was meeting to consider Pakistan's request for a new $1.3-billion loan from the the global financial institution's Resilience and Sustainability Facility.

"The Congress expects India to strongly oppose this assistance," Mr. Ramesh, who shared a screenshot of the IMF Executive Board calendar, said.

On BSF jawan's return

Separately, the Congress also asked the Centre about the steps it was taking to secure the safe return of Border Security Force (BSF) jawan Purnam Sahu, who has strayed to the Pakistan side of the border.

Pointing out that it it has been six days since the BSF constable was detained by the Pakistan Rangers, Congress's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera, in a post on X, said: "His family is anxiously awaiting answers. What step is the government taking to secure his safe return?"

The Huddle to discuss climate challenge, responses

SAMI-SABINSA GROUP
Presents
THE HINDU
HUDDLE
INDIA IN DIALOGUE
Co-powered by

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In November, climate envoys from around the world will converge in Belem, Brazil for the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an annual endeavour to get countries to raise ambition on tackling climate change.

The facts on climate change and the link with human-caused warming are well established, and become ominous with each passing year.

To avert the worst impacts of climate change and preserve a liveable planet, the United Nations says, global warming needs to be contained as far as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius over the average temperature of the pre-industrial era. However, that means reducing emissions by 43% relative to 2019, by 2030. Global carbon emissions, largely from fossil fuels, continue to rise and reach record levels. Global carbon dioxide emissions likely reached a record high of 41.6 billion tonnes in 2024, up from 40.6 billion tonnes in 2023.

The Hindu Huddle, 2025 is presented by the Sami Sabinsa Group and co-powered by the Government of Telangana.

- Associate partners: Akshayakalpa Organic, Presidency University, and TAFE
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- Radio partner: Radio City
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- Broadcast partner: Times Now
- Outdoor media partner: Signpost India

Panel discussion

The Huddle, a marquee event of The Hindu Group to be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10, will have an exciting panel discussion, "Climate calling: is technology the panacea for a warming planet?", on the challenges facing the planet.

With the advent of the Trump presidency and a disavowal of the facts around climate change, there is a growing sense that somehow only markets and finance or grandiose technological fixes can "save" the planet.

Rather than curbing emissions, the conversation seems to be drifting towards ways to make money off the crisis. Are we at an impasse? Where do we go from here?

Dissecting these questions will be the panel of three eminent analysts – Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Founder-CEO of the Council On Energy, Environment and Water; Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, The Energy Resources Institute; and Dr. Sambuddha Misra, a chemical-oceanographer at the Indian Institute of Science and Chief Scientist, Alt Carbon.

Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Dhawan have advised governments, States and companies on navigating the challenges from climate change and are leaders of the most influential climate-policy institutions in India, and Dr. Misra is a leading climate scientist who is part of the "climate-tech" start-up which probes how the natural world is responding to warming and the limits to which geo-engineering can fix it.

Among the topics that the session, moderated by Jacob Koshy, Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*, will discuss are: "If the current Trump Presidency counts as a serious setback to addressing climate change"; "Whether multilateralism is oh-so-20th century?", "Can you make money and still save the planet?", and "Whether it is time that India evolved a dedicated 'climate mission' on the lines of the AI or Quantum Mission?"

Theme of the year

The theme of this year's Huddle is "India in Dialogue". The event is a celebration of meaningful debates and conversations. At a time when noise often drowns out nuance, The Huddle creates space for listening, reflection, and authentic connections.

If you have any questions that you would like our moderator to ask the panellists, write to huddle@thehindu.co.in

Centre exempts many more from repatriation to Pak.

Pakistani Hindus who have 'applied for long-term visas' and whose applications are 'under process' have been exempted; on April 28-29, as many as 249 Pakistanis left India via Attari

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Amid a country-wide crackdown to physically remove Pakistan citizens whose visas expired on April 29, the Union Home Ministry expanded the list of categories exempted from repatriation.

The Ministry issued guidelines that Pakistani Hindus who have "applied for long-term visas" (LTVs) and whose applications are "under process" will be exempted from the repatriation process.

Exemption has also been granted to Hindu migrants who were eligible but had not yet applied for LTV, on the condition that they apply immediately.

The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, where the concentration of Pakistani Hindus is the highest, conveyed to Seemant Lok Sangathan, a group that advocates for the rights of Pakistani minority migrants in India, that Muslim women who are married to Indian citizens and have applied for LTVs are "not required to leave the country".

The FRRO in Jodhpur conducted a special drive from April 26 to 28 to register Pakistani Hindu migrants, and LTVs were granted to 362 persons.

Earlier, government officials had clarified that those who possessed LTVs will be exempt from the visa-revocation order and will not have to leave the country. On April 28-29, as many as 249 Pakistanis left India via the Attari integrated land port in Punjab, while 527 Indians entered the country. As many as 537 Pakistani citizens left India between April 24 and 27, when the first deadline came to an end.

Seemant Lok Sangathan president Hindu Singh Sodha said that there are 10,000 Pakistani Hindus whose LTV applications have been pending with the Ministry for more than two years.

Hard partings: A Pakistani woman gets emotional while leaving for Pakistan on the Attari-Wagah border on Tuesday. PTI

A senior police official in Rajasthan said some Hindu migrants who came here on short-term visas wanted to stay back and were being given LTVs. "As a procedure, calls were made to all Pakistani visa holders. Some minority community members from Pakistan wanted to stay back on the grounds of persecution, so we asked them to apply for LTV," the official said.

A Delhi Police official said that they had been given a list of Pakistani citizens who had not left the country despite the visas being revoked.

"The procedure is that they will be taken to the FRRO office in Delhi, which will examine their documents and if found flouting the visa conditions, they will be sent to the detention centre in Lampur from where they will be deported to their country of origin," said the official. In Maharashtra, a government official said that exit permits were being handed over to people and it was being ensured that they leave the country.

Cong. seeks Parliament session in wake of attack

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to convene a special session of Parliament to demonstrate a collective resolve in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack. Several Opposition MPs have made a similar demand.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Kharge said, "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, the Opposition believes that it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest. This will be a powerful demonstration of our collective resolve and willpower to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on innocent citizens on April 22." Mr. Gandhi's letter bore the same request, and said the Pahalgam tragedy has outraged every Indian.

"At this critical time, India must show that we will always stand together against terrorism," he wrote.

Congress is speaking the language of Pak., say BJP and its allies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies on Tuesday intensified their attack on the Congress over the remarks of some of its leaders on the Pahalgam terror attack and a pictorial post made through the party's official X handle apparently projecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi as having "disappeared at a time for responsibility".

Responding to the post, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said: "When our Prime Minister is leading the fight against terrorism strongly, why does Congress have such a low opinion about the Prime Minister? How low will Congress stoop! I abhor this Congress party's antics!"

'Speaking their language'

Former Union Minister Anurag Thakur said: "Pakistan is a country which has a terrorist fund in its state policy. Pakistan enjoys shedding the blood of people... What is the compulsion for Congress and its leaders that they have to speak the language of Pakistan? Can they not see the blood of innocent citizens in the terrorist attacks against India?"

Mr. Thakur said former Union Minister Saifuddin Soz was "supporting the statement of Pakistan in which it is saying that it has no role in the attack". "Should we now believe the explanation of Pakistan?" he asked. Shiv Sena Parliamentary Party chairman Shrikant Shinde said: "The Congress party owes the nation answers. Does it stand with the victims of terror or with those making excuses for terrorists? This hypocrisy cannot be whitewashed. India deserves a strong, united political response to terror – not a fractured, confused, and appeasement-driven narrative.

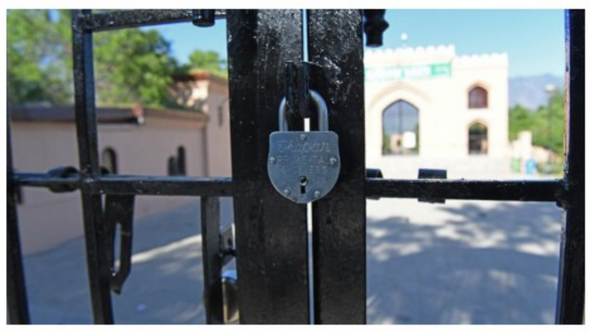
After a security audit, over half of major tourist spots in Kashmir off-limits for tourists

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

More than half of Kashmir's major tourist sites have been closed following a security audit of tourist destinations conducted against the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack and the escalating confrontation between India and Pakistan on the Line of Control (LoC).

Of the 89 tourist destinations audited in Kashmir, 49 have been closed to tourists. Only destinations with a multi-tier security cover have been allowed to host tourists for now.

The closures are "a very short-term measure", according to Nasir Aslam Wani, adviser to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. "These closures are precautionary and will be lifted shortly once the areas are declared secure. There is no need to panic," he said.



No entry: A closed tourist spot in Srinagar. It was shut by authorities as a precautionary measure. IMRAN NISSAR

In north Kashmir, which has three districts close to the LoC, the prominent destinations of Gurez, Bangus valley, Baba Reshi, and Kaman Post are among those which have been closed to tourists.

In Srinagar, which is not close to the LoC, 16 sites have been identified as no-go areas for tourists. These include the Jama Masjid, Badamwari, Rajouri Kadal, Aali Kadal, Faqir Gujri, Astanmarg, and the upper areas of Dachigam.

In central Kashmir, Naranag, Yousmarg, Toisamaidan, Aharbal, and Kousarenag are among the prominent tourist destinations closed for travellers. In south Kashmir, the Sun Temple at Kehribal, Verinag, Sinthan Top, and Margan Top have also been closed.

Kashmir has witnessed a major security clampdown following the killing of 26 civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam in Anantnag district on April 22.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
Email: biddingcell@rajasthan.gov.in

Date of NIT:16-04-2025

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10B, Section 11 read with Section 10B and Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, its subsequent amendments and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified there under, the Government of Rajasthan has notified the following major mineral blocks for the purpose of grant of Mining lease and Composite license & hereby invites bids in digital format only from eligible bidders through electronic auction.

The details of major mineral blocksand last date of submission of bid are summarized below:

S No	Name of Block	ML/ CL	Mineral	Attempt of Auction	Start Date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC	Last Date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Bid Due date and time
1.	Mandai-IV Block, District Jaisalmer (51577, 51584)	CL	Siliceous Earth	Second	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
2.	Mandai-V Block, District Jaisalmer (51578, 51585)	CL	Siliceous Earth	Second	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
3.	Gourum Khan Ki Dhani (South) Block District Jaisalmer (3238, 3241)	ML	Limestone	Second	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
4.	Jiraj Ka Toba-Asu Tar (Main) Block District Jaisalmer (3466, 3468)	ML	Limestone	Second	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
5.	Joga-I Block (JO-I), District Jaisalmer (51580, 51587)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
6.	Joga-III Block (JO-III), District Jaisalmer (51581, 51588)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
7.	Joga-IV Block (JO-IV), District Jaisalmer (51582, 51589)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
8.	Parewar-A Block District Jaisalmer (53765, 53773)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
9.	Parewar (SN-I) Block District Jaisalmer (53766, 53774)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
10.	Parewar (SN-III) Block District Jaisalmer (53767, 53775)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
11.	Parewar (SN-IV) Block District Jaisalmer (53768, 53776)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
12.	Khabhiya Block District Jaisalmer (53769, 53777)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
13.	Khabhiya East Block District Jaisalmer (53770, 53778)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05-2025upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
14.	Nimana-Duniya Extension Block District Kota (53771, 53779)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
15.	Tadas Block-I District Nagaur (2595, 2597)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
16.	Tadas Block-II District Nagaur (2596, 2598)	ML	Limestone	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
17.	Chatwara Block, District Jalore(51579, 51586)	CL	Fluorite	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
18.	Gararіya Block District Banswara (52024, 52028)	CL	Maganese	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
19.	West of Samodi Block District Bhilwara (52025, 52029)	CL	Copper-Lead-Zinc	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
20.	Shahpura Block District Beawar (52026, 52030)	CL	Copper & Associated Gold	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
21.	Kuratiyan Block District Beawar (52027, 52031)	CL	Copper	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05- 2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
22.	Chauth Ka Barwara Block District Sawai Madhopur (3237, 3240)	CL	Lead-Zinc	First	16-04-2025	01-05-2025 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	21-05-2025 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)

The mineral concession of the blocks will be granted in accordance with the Honourable Supreme Court's order dated May 9, 2024, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677/1985, M.C Mehta vs Union of India & ORS with writ petition (s) (civil) no. 202/1985, T N Godaverman v/s Union of India & ORS or any subsequent order issued in these petitions, if applicable.

The interested and eligible bidders, upon registration on MSTC website <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp> will obtain login ID and Password. After successful registration, the eligible bidder can purchase the Tender Document online on payment of the tender fee of INR Rs. 2,00,000/- (Indian Rupees Two Lakh) and can participate in the e-auction process.

If a bidder had already purchased the tender document during the first attempt of auction for a specific block, then in the second attempt of auction, the tender document will be available for download to that same bidder only for the same block, upon payment of a non-refundable Tender Document fee of INR 25,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Only).

The GST at the rate of 18% is applicable on the purchase of tender document. The GST applicable is to be submitted by the prospective bidder itself and the copy of receipt is to be attached with the technical bid.

The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMGR/MSTC.

Detailed terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participation in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document and the Mineral Block Summary is available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd, <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp>; and Department of Mines & Geology <www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp>.

Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the above tender documents will be hosted on websites <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp>; and <www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in>only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Director
Department of Mines & Geology
Rajasthan, Udaipur

DIPR/C/5351/2025

INBRIEF

Canada: AAP leader's daughter missing for 3 days found dead

A Punjab AAP leader's 21-year-old daughter who went missing three days ago in Canada's Ottawa has been found dead, according to authorities. The Indian High Commission in Ottawa on Monday confirmed the death of Vanshika Saini, the daughter of AAP leader Davinder Saini from Mohali. "We are deeply saddened to be informed of the death of Ms. Vanshika, student from India in Ottawa," it said, adding that authorities concerned have taken up the case. Vanshika went missing last Friday after leaving her residence to view a rental room, according to a social media post by an Indo-Canadian association linked by the High Commission. PTI

Ax-4 mission: Indian astronaut Shukla to fly to ISS on May 29

Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) is scheduled to be launched on May 29 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Group Captain Shukla will be the pilot of the Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) and the launch is targeted no earlier than 1.03 p.m. EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) on May 29, NASA announced on Tuesday. The Axiom Mission 4 crew will be launched aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft to the ISS and will spend up to 14 days at the orbiting laboratory. Group Captain Shukla, who is also one of the four astronauts-designate selected for the Gaganyaan mission of ISRO, will become the first Indian astronaut to go to the ISS.

NEP changed country's education system: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that since the launch of the National Education Policy, the country's education system had witnessed significant changes. He said that under the National Curriculum Framework, learning-teaching materials and new textbooks for Classes 1 to 7 had already been prepared. He was addressing the Uniting Academia, Industry and Innovators for Viksit Bharat (YUGM) conclave organised jointly by the Union Education Ministry and Wadhwani Foundation here.

"Under PM e-Vidya and the DIKSHA platform, a 'One Nation, One Digital Education Infrastructure' has been created. This infrastructure is AI-based and scalable. It is being used to prepare textbooks in over 30 Indian languages and seven foreign languages," Mr. Modi said. The Prime Minister said through the National Credit Framework, it had become easier for students to study multiple subjects simultaneously. He added that in the past decade, significant progress had been made in improving the research ecosystem.

Insufficient support for deep tech start-ups in India: study

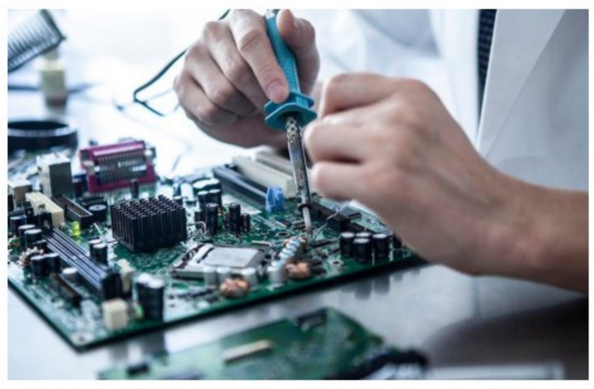
The study asked labs to supply data on 62 parameters such as their spend on R&D; around 25% of the participating institutions reported spending between 75% and 100% of their budget on R&D

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Only about one in four public-funded research and development organisations in India gives incubation support to start-ups and only one in six provides support to 'deep tech' start-ups. Only 15% collaborated with industry overseas and only half opened their facilities to outside researchers and students, say the findings of a study commissioned by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and executed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Economic Research.

The study, via a detailed questionnaire, asked labs to rate themselves and supply data on 62 parameters such as their spend on R&D; the number of young scientists, patents filed, and technologies developed; and participation of women scientists and their contribution to "national missions" such as the Deep Ocean Mission and National Quantum Mission.

Labs of the "strategic sector", such as those belonging to defence, space, and atomic energy research – all of which constitute the lion's share of India's overall Research and Development (R&D) spend – were excluded from the study due to the "sensitive nature of their work".



Only half of the public-funded research organisations in India opened their facilities to outside scholars. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The labs studied were those affiliated to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Department of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and so on.

The Union government expenditure on R&D was around ₹55,685 crore in 2020-21, the figure cited in the study and the latest available says. Excluding the expenditure of the strategic departments such as the DRDO (defence), DAE (atomic energy) and DoS (space), the spending by key scientific agencies and other Central government departments was ₹24,587 crore.

Around 25% of the participating institutions reported spending between 75% and 100% of their budget on R&D.

The organisations that reported less than the median share of spending on R&D and S&T (Science and Technology) in the overall budget were largely from ICAR (Agricultural research), CSIR, ICMR (medical research), Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda and traditional medicine) and DST (Science and Technology).

Staff strength down

A large number of labs/institutes reported a decrease in the number of permanent staff in 2022-23 compared with the previous year and an increased reliance on contractual staff.

The median share of young researchers increased in 2022-23 to around 58% from 54% in the previous year.

"This is the second time that we have had such an analysis. What we intend is that the data from such a study be closely analysed by institutions so that they can identify areas of improvement," said Dr. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser. "Overall, several research institutes seem to have oriented themselves from being centres of scientific inquiry to innovation centres. I see that as a positive development. Academia and product innovation must go hand in hand."

As part of its recommendation, the report advocates that every lab should be "mandated to review their existing mandates".

Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai

SC judge B.R. Gavai to take over as CJI on May 14

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI), Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Tuesday.

Justice Gavai would take charge as the CJI on May 14, a day after incumbent CJI Justice Sanjiv Khanna demits office.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge of the Supreme Court of India as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 14th May, 2025," Mr. Meghwal said in a post on X.

The Law Ministry issued a notification announcing Justice Gavai's appointment as the 52nd CJI. He is the senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI.

PG specialists with requisite service can teach in medical colleges: NMC

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

To increase the faculty pool for medical colleges across the country, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has said that specialists working in non-teaching government healthcare institutes will be eligible to work as faculty in medical colleges. The specialists include those serving in defence and railway medical facilities, and other government hospitals.

NMC Chairman B.N. Gangadhar told *The Hindu* that non-teaching consultants, specialists, and medical officers with postgraduate medical degrees and two years of experience in a district headquarters government hospital or a 220-bed government hospital would be eligible to become an Assistant Professor of their broad specialties. If they had 10 years of experience, they would be eligible to become Associate Professor, he added.

The commission has noted that there is a shortage of teachers in medical colleges across India. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Government hospital also includes the Railways and defence [facilities], and hospitals under government Ministries," Dr. Gangadhar said, adding that the recommendation for their inclusion had already been submitted to the Union government, and was expected to be cleared and implemented soon.

The commission has noted that there is a shortage of teachers in medical colleges across India, particularly in non-clinical subjects such as anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda had announced in the Lok Sabha that the number of medical colleges in India had risen from 387 in 2014 to 731, with a significant increase in undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats.

Further, there has been an increase of 110% in MBBS seats, from 51,348 before 2014 to 1,07,948 currently, and there has also been an increase of 117% in postgraduate seats, from 31,185 before 2014 to 67,802 now.

The shortage has become more pronounced with new NMC guidelines that have reduced the representation of medical M.Sc. and Ph.D. educators despite the growing demand for faculty.

Earlier this year, the National M.Sc. Medical Teachers' Association strongly opposed the NMC's alleged discrimination against medical M.Sc. and Ph.D. educators in non-clinical subjects.

Changes in monsoon affect marine productivity in Bay of Bengal: study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Strong and weak monsoons can influence marine productivity in the Bay of Bengal, a study exploring fluctuations in the Indian summer monsoon over the past 22,000 years has found. Marine productivity is a proxy for growth of plankton, the main source of nourishment for aquatic life.

The study is significant given that several climate models warn of significant disruption to the monsoon, under the impact of human-caused warming.

The study, which appears in the peer-reviewed *Nature Geoscience*, brought together scientists from India, China, Europe. and the United States.

"By analysing their chemistry and tracking the abundance of certain types that thrive in productive waters, we reconstructed long-term changes in rainfall, ocean temperatures and marine life in the Bay of Bengal," Kaustubh Thirumalai of the University of Austin, the lead author of the study, said.

Despite covering less than 1% of the world's ocean area, the Bay of Bengal accounts for 8% of global fishery production. L. BALACHANDAR

"Together, these chemical signals helped us understand how the monsoon and ocean conditions responded to global climate changes over the past 22,000 years."

Despite covering less than 1% of the world's ocean area, the Bay of Bengal accounts for nearly 8% of global fishery production. Its nutrient-rich coastal waters are vital to the densely populated communities along its shores, many of whom rely heavily on fisheries for food and income. "Millions of people living along the Bay of Bengal rely on the sea for protein, particularly from fisheries," said Yair Rosenthal of Rutgers University, a co-author. "If ocean productivity declines, it will powerfully affect the ecosystem, ultimately reducing fish stocks and threatening food security for coastal communities."

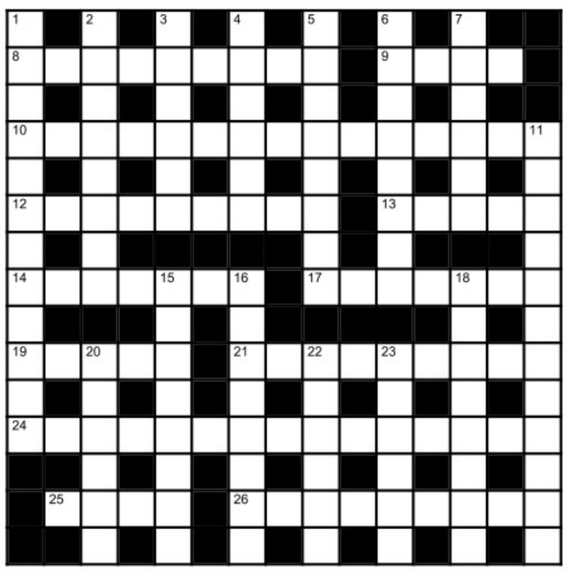
The study found that both abnormally strong and weak monsoons throughout history had caused major disruptions in ocean mixing, leading to a 50% reduction in food for marine life in the surface waters. This occurs because extreme monsoon conditions interfere with the vertical movement of nutrient-rich waters from the deep ocean to the surface. By comparing ancient patterns with modern ocean data and climate model projections, researchers identified "worrying" similarities, the authors said in a statement.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 14472

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Specific person primarily thrown out of a joint (9)
9 Lug piece of luggage for aristocrat (4)
10 Clandestine exercise primarily renounced, truth broadcast (5,3,7)
12 Sort of leaning Member might share, essentially political? (9)
13 Something that stains Romeo's intent to an extent (5)
14 A record label launches Filipino (7)
17 Party leading Government in compact returning pointers, for example (3,4)
19 Send terms of reference (5)
21 'Rank' clued incorporating 'rank' became a sore point (9)
24 Assist girls and send out calls for help (8,7)
25 Day is cold, a record (4)
26 Speaker stops point about suspensions (9)

Down

1 Made in Macau, turned up around France (12)
2 Investigating way out, edging out on the way out (8)
3 Rocks collapse bringing out one effect of springtime thaw (3,3)
4 Slice of Babybel cheese for Turkish ambassador (6)
5 Cost of space taken up storing grain before end of harvest (5,3)
6 Regret making the last top in pure, sky-blue (8)
7 Animals barking rub scent every so often in retreat (6)
11 Elevated tier assigned offering vantage viewpoint (8,4)
15 Learned people have this energy kindled with lively crowds (8)
16 Horrible golf, pity to a few (8)
18 United Thailand splits with royal suffering banishment (8)
20 Film about current and force lifting fish out of water (6)
22 Men standing behind expelled Cuban leader (6)
23 Makes amends for Conservative son (6)

SUDOKU

						2		5
				3			6	
1		9	6		5			
	8	5		7		6		
7		1		9		4		8
		2		1		3	5	
			1		3	7		2
	4			5				
3		7						

No.SS6505 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

S	E	R	I	A	L	H	A	W
H	A	W	S	E	R	B	A	E
R	A	T	T	R	A	P	R	O
R	L	R	P	V	N	X		
D	E	L	I	B	E	R	A	T
N	N	N	S	M				
S	C	E	N	E	A	R	T	I
H	S	M	R	N				
F	A	N	T	A	S	I	A	A
P	E	H	N	E				
T	E	A	R	S	E	A	M	S
L	R	K	T	L	S	H		
M	E	D	I	C	A	L	M	A
S	E	T	T	S	D			
S	U	R	V	E	Y	T	E	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	8	1	9	7	3	5	2
2	9	3	4	5	6	7	1	8
5	7	1	2	8	3	6	4	9
8	3	6	5	4	1	9	2	7
9	5	2	7	6	8	4	3	1
7	1	4	3	2	9	5	8	6
4	6	9	8	3	2	1	7	5
3	8	7	9	1	5	2	6	4
1	2	5	6	7	4	8	9	3

FAITH

Bottomless Akshaya Tritiya

Contrary to popular culture associating Akshaya Tritiya with gold (wealth), the day is special on all counts, including education, charity activities and various good deeds. Falling in the vaikasa month when the moon is on the ascendence, this Tritiya is hailed as Akshaya Tritiya for various reasons, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

A number of good events took place on this day, benefiting mankind: the Ganga descended on earth; Lord Vishnu manifested as Parasuram; Kubera, a byname for wealth, became rich due to the grace of Mahalakshmi on this day; Kuchela became wealthy due to Krishna's kindness on Akshaya Tritiya. Krishna, hearing Draupadi's plea when she was being disrobed on this day, saved her dignity. It was on this day that Garuda fetched nectar from the devas to save his mother. Annapoorani, the goddess of food, took form on this day. Vyasa dictated the Mahabharata to Vinayaka on Akshaya Tritiya day. Yudhishthira received the Akshaya patra from Sun on this day.

Akshaya translates to endless prosperity; hence whatever activity or purchase one undertakes on this day is believed to fetch maximum results, which explains the frenetic buying of gold, silver and diamond articles in even miniscule quantity or purchases in the share market. The temples reverberate with bhakti on this day, as devotees re-invest in their faith as well on this day.

Our sastras recommend that one prays to Maha Vishnu by offering grains and to pray to Mahalakshmi with flowers and sandal paste. It is recommended that one undertake charity work on this day and donate medicines, fruits, umbrella, buttermilk, grains and other items.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,288	0.08
US Dollar	84.96	0.31
Gold	99,450	1.06
Brent oil	64.35	-1.81

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2330.60	-39.20
Adani Ports	1216.40	6.50
Apollo Hosp	6992.50	-52.50
Asian Paints	2451.10	-1.10
Axis Bank	1187.30	-5.50
Bajaj Auto	8078.50	-17.50
Bajaj Finserv	2066.90	17.20
Bajaj Finance	9093.00	0.00
Bharat Elec	317.10	12.05
Bharti Airtel	1823.80	2.00
Cipla	1541.50	-13.60
Coal India	389.10	-8.05
Dr Reddys Lab	1176.00	-22.70
Eicher Motors	5579.00	-43.00
Eternal Ltd.	231.11	3.90
Grasim Ind	2745.70	-7.70
HCL Tech	1569.00	19.70
HDFC Bank	1908.80	-11.40
HDFC Life	715.05	4.20
Hero MotoCorp	3852.70	-59.00
Hindalco	622.55	-6.10
Hind Unilever	2321.70	3.10
ICICI Bank	1429.80	1.00
IndusInd Bank	836.95	6.40
Infosys	1497.50	15.40
ITC	426.00	-2.80
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	257.63	-0.27
JSW Steel	1035.60	-18.80
Kotak Bank	2205.00	-20.60
L&T	3322.30	-5.00
M&M	2909.60	-21.00
Maruti Suzuki	11841.00	-5.00
NestleIndia	2387.50	-18.50
NTPC	356.95	-4.55
ONGC	245.68	-4.92
PowerGrid Corp	302.95	-5.60
Reliance Ind	1399.70	30.90
SBI Life	1730.10	-6.00
State Bank	812.55	-4.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	614.70	-7.30
Sun Pharma	1805.50	-36.10
TataConsumerProduct	1168.90	13.70
Tata Motors	665.60	-2.55
Tata Steel	141.50	-0.57
TCS	3472.50	29.00
Tech Mahindra	1495.30	33.80
Titan	3378.60	9.50
Trent Ltd.	5391.50	182.00
UltraTech Cement	11869.00	-245.00
Wipro	241.40	0.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.06	85.38
Euro	96.75	97.12
British Pound	113.84	114.28
Japanese Yen (100)	59.61	59.83
Chinese Yuan	11.70	11.74
Swiss Franc	103.01	103.40
Singapore Dollar	64.93	65.19
Canadian Dollar	61.43	61.66
Malaysian Ringitt	19.64	19.74
Australian Dollar	54.48	54.69

Source:Indian Bank

U.S. puts India back on IPR watch list

Over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property protection and enforcement despite efforts to strengthen its IP regime, according to the U.S. Trade Representative's 2025 Special 301 report

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The U.S. on Tuesday again placed India on its 'priority watch list' stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights.

The US Trade Representative's (USTR) 2025 Special 301 report said that over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property protection and enforcement. It said that although India has worked to strengthen its IP regime, there continues to be a lack of progress on many long-standing IP concerns.

It added that patent issues continue to be of particular concern in India.

Stakeholders continue to express concerns over vagueness in the interpretation of the Indian Patents Act, it alleged. "While steps to improve IP Office operations and procedures are to be commended, India's overall IP enforcement remains inadequate," it said.

China, Indonesia, Russia, Argentina, and Venezuela are among others on the list. It has also placed 25 countries, including Pakistan and Turkey, on the list. India maintains high customs duties directed to IP-intensive products such as information and communications technology (ICT) products, solar energy equipment, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and capital goods. Furthermore, stakeholders have reported continuing problems with unauthorised file sharing of video games, signal theft by cable operators, commercial-scale photocopying and unauthorised reprints of academic books, and circumvention of technological protection measures.

Companies also continue to face uncertainty due to insufficient legal means to protect trade secrets in India. These concerns could factor into the Trump administration's negotiations with many countries over tariffs and non-tariff barriers, giving the report greater significance this year.

(With inputs from M. Soundariya Preetha in Coimbatore)

Whither safety

India remains one of the most challenging major economies with regard to protection and enforcement of IP, the USTR report says

- The report says patent issues continue to be of particular concern in India
- Stakeholders have reported unauthorised file sharing of video games, reprints of academic books, among other issues
- Companies also face uncertainty due to insufficient legal means to protect trade secrets in India

BPCL Q4 net profit slides 8% to ₹4,392 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) reported an 8% fall in consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, to ₹4,392 crore from ₹4,790 crore in the year-earlier period.

The company's revenue for the quarter declined 4% to ₹1,26,916 crore year on year (YoY). The board has recommended a dividend of ₹5 per share with a face value of ₹10 each.

For FY25, the company's net profit plunged to ₹13,337 crore from ₹26,859 crore in the previous year, down 50%. Annual sales revenue also fell slightly above 1% to ₹5,00,517 crore from ₹5,06,993 crore in the previous year.

On a standalone basis, BPCL has recorded an annual net profit of ₹13,275 crore as compared with a net profit of ₹26,673.50 crore in the previous year.

The board has recommended a dividend of ₹5 per share with a face value of ₹10 each. REUTERS

IndusInd Bank CEO resigns on 'moral' grounds

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Chief Executive Officer of IndusInd Bank Sumant Kathpalia on Tuesday announced his resignation in a letter to shareholders, a day after the bank's deputy CEO Arun Khurana stepped down.

The bank had earlier announced action against the senior management for accounting errors in derivatives trade.

"I wish to submit my resignation from the services of the bank in relation to the ongoing derivatives discussion. I undertake moral responsibility, given the various acts of commission/omission that have been brought to my notice. I would request that my resignation be taken on record at close of working hours today. I would like to thank the regulators, board, my management team members and staff for the support I got during my tenure of 5 years as the CEO," Mr. Kathpalia said in the letter, which was part of an exchange filing announcing the management change on Tuesday.

Sumant Kathpalia

Mr. Kathpalia had been with IndusInd Bank for over 17 years and took over as the CEO in March 2020. His tenure extension was approved by the RBI twice albeit for a shorter period.

Mr. Kathpalia was considered close to the promoters of the bank, the Hinduja Group. He had offloaded about 9.5 lakh shares amounting to a total value of ₹134 crore between May 2023 and June 2024, when Mr. Khurana had offloaded about ₹80 crore worth of shares.

INBRIEF

ED said to quiz Apple, Xiaomi in Amazon, Flipkart probe

The Enforcement Directorate has privately sought sales data and other documents from smartphone players, including Apple and Xiaomi, as part of a probe into Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart, sources familiar with the matter said. The agency's queries come in the backdrop of India and the United States nearing a trade deal. The protectionist e-commerce regulations in India have been part of those discussions, according to an official. REUTERS

Ambuja Cements reports ₹1,282.24 crore profit for Q4

Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd. on Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,282.24 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025. The company had reported a net profit of ₹1,521.21 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Ambuja Cements Ltd (ACL). The consolidated financial results of ACL for the March quarter are not comparable due to the acquisition of several companies. PTI

Crisis-hit Gensol Engineering shares in free-fall for 14th day

Shares of Gensol Engineering tanked 5% to hit a fresh lower circuit limit on Tuesday due to ongoing crisis at the firm. The stock of the firm dropped 4.97% to ₹82.20, the lowest trading permissible limit for the day as also its 52-week low on the BSE. Shares of the firm fell 5% to hit its lower circuit as well as a 52-week low level of ₹81.36 on the NSE. This is the 14th day of decline for the stock. From its 52-week high of ₹1,125.75, the stock has lost 92.69% of its value. PTI

In tranche four of fresher layoffs, 195 exit tech firm Infosys

Sanjana B
BENGALURU

In its fourth round of fresher layoffs, IT major Infosys reportedly let go about 195 trainees, sources said. This brings the total fresher exits to more than 800 out of the approximately 2,000 onboarded last year.

In February, Infosys verified it laid off about 350 trainees due to inability to clear internal assessments. This was followed by the termination of about 45 more trainees in March and about 240 additional exits about two weeks ago.

Following the third round, the IT labour union Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) submitted a second complaint with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship against the "illegal and unethical layoffs."

Infosys did not respond to *businessline's* mail seeking comments, at the time of going to press.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR, said, "With uncertainties, firms are becoming more selective, often reassessing new hires against stricter performance and deployment criteria," he added.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Bajaj Finance Q4 net up 17%, to pay ₹56 dividend, issue bonus

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

For Q4, loan loss and provisions rose 78% to ₹2,329 cr. while for FY25 it grew 72% to ₹7,966 cr.

Bajaj Finance Ltd. reported a 17% year-on-year rise in Q4 consolidated net profit (attributed to the owners) to ₹4,480 crore.

Net Interest Income (NII) grew 22% year-on-year to ₹9,807 crore.

For FY25, consolidated net profit grew 15% to ₹16,638 crore while NII rose 23% to ₹36,393 crore.

For the quarter, loan loss and provisions grew 78% to ₹2,329 crore while annual loan loss and provisions were to the tune of ₹7,966 crore, up 72%.

The board of directors have declared dividend of ₹56 per share [special interim dividend of ₹12 and final dividend of ₹44 per share] for FY25.

The board recommended sub-division of one equity share of face value of ₹2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of face value of ₹1 each fully paid-up and the issue of bonus equity shares in the ratio of 4:1 i.e. four bonus equity shares for every one equity share held in the company.

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governorpet, Vijayawada – 520002
Phone: 0866-2527110, Email:recruitment@apcrda.org
Rc.No. MAU61-OPCS0CNTE(APPT)/7/2025-OM, Dt. 28-04-2025
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No.09/2025
Notification is hereby issued for filling up the Post of **Manager Legal-01 post in APCRDA, Vijayawada** on contract basis. Online application is available in the APCRDA website in careers tab and can be submitted from **dt.30-04-2025 to dt.06-05-2025.** For further details please visit **https://crda.ap.gov.in**
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA,Vijayawada.

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Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 000741	Supply of IBR certified Alloy Steel Pipes for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit-I	20.05.2025
252613 000742	Supply of IBR certified Carbon Steel Pipes for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit-I	20.05.2025
252613 000743	Supply of IBR certified Alloy Steel Fittings for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit-I	20.05.2025
252623 000308	For Design, Manufacture, Supply of Tissue Machine Hall ventilation system and their auxiliaries, spares, installation, erection, start-up and commissioning for TM#5 of TNPL Unit-II.	23.05.2025
252623 000309	For Design, Manufacture, Supply of Tissue Machine False Ceiling System along with its auxiliaries, spares, and erection for TM#5 of TNPL Unit-II.	23.05.2025
Email	252613000741 ; 0742 ; 0743 - pmd8@tnpl.co.in 252623000308 ; 0309 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1731/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public are hereby informed that, our client **Sri.Ritesh Malikayya Guttedar,** Residing at: No.Flat No.143 T3 Peble Bay Apartment, Dollars Colony, Sanjayanagar, Bangalore 560 094, has lost the Original Sale deed dated:26-03-1992, registered as document No.1801/1992-93, jointly executed by Sri.M.S.Basavaraj and others, in favour of Sri.Sathish V. Guttedar, in respect of immovable residential property bearing **Municipal No.27**, Situated at in New Extension, Bangalore City and New bearing Municipal No.23, in Gandhinagar, Corporation Division No.22, Bangalore, while taking Xerox copy of the same near home side. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 15-04-2025, lost report No.1564882/2025. If anybody found the said document please contact this **Nos.9844155041 and 9845205555.**
V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Ph : 080-22223949, 9844155041.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public are hereby informed that, our client **Sri.Ritesh Guttedar,** Residing at: No.Flat No.143 T3 Peble Bay Apartment, Dollars Colony, Sanjayanagar, Bangalore 560 094, has lost the Original Sale deed dated:18-06-2003, registered as document No.3769/2003-04, executed by Sri.M.S. Basavaraj, in favour of Smt.Vanitha Guttedar, in respect of immovable residential property bearing **present Municipal No.24, (Old No.61/1),** Situated at 3rd Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.27, while taking Xerox copy of the same near house of Sri.Ritesh Guttedar. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 16-04-2025, lost report No.1566113/2025. If anybody found the said document please contact this **Nos. 9844155041 and 9845205555.**
V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Ph : 080-22223949, 9844155041.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, देवघर
ई–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा संख्या:- 07/RII/2024-25/RWD/EE/DEOGHAR दिनांक :- 28.04.2025
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार **e-procurement** पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

पैकेज संख्या		कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख में)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में (रूपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेन्डर कॉल
RWD/EE/DEOGHAR/STPKG/04/2024-25	1	साप्तर पी0डब्लु0डी0 मुख्य पथ से जलैया होते हुए पी0डब्लु0डी0 मुख्य पथ तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं0–3.700 कि.मी.)	14,12,58,500.00	चौदह करोड़ बारह लाख अनठावन हजार पॉच सौ रूपये मात्र।	15 महीना	तृतीय
	2	पी0डब्लु0डी0 मुख्य पथ से बदिया होते हुए कल्याणपुर बुढ़ीबगीचा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.100 कि.मी.)				
	3	पी0डब्लु0डी0 पथ पिपरा से जयंती नदी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.350 कि.मी.)				
	4	मधुपुर लहरजोरी मुख्य पथ से बोर्गया होते हुए चेतनारी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.920 कि.मी.)				
	5	पी0डब्लु0डी0 पथ उघोडीह से टटकजोरी भाया बेहरापहाड़ी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.490 कि.मी.)				
	6	चरघरा से घसको तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–1.200 कि.मी.)				
	7	जमा से जोगीडीह चरपा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.320 कि.मी.)				
	8	नावाडीह पी0डब्लु0डी0 पथ से साहु टोला चेतनारी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.256 कि.मी.)				
	9	बनसीमी चौक से कासीटॉड़ तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं0–2.00 कि.मी.)				

(1). बेवसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **02.05.2025**
(2). ई0 निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि – **10.05.2025** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
(3). निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **13.05.2025** अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
(4). निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रा0 कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर।
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर
PR 351405 Deoghar(25-26).D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP(CMG)
ISRO Headquarters, Antariksh Bhavan,
New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560 094.
Ph: 080-22172476/2479/2033 Fax No.: 080-2351 3126
E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

Title of Work	**Refurbishment of plate wash and hand wash area of canteen at Antariksh Bhavan, ISRO HQ, Bengaluru-Civil, PH & Electrical works.**
e-Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/M/02/P/AB/ 2025-26 dated 28.04.2025**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 13.38 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**Two (02) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From **18:10 hrs on 28.04.2025** To: **23:59 hrs on 12.05.2025**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**up to 15:30 hrs on 15.05.2025**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**16:00 hrs onwards on 15.05.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 26,760/-**

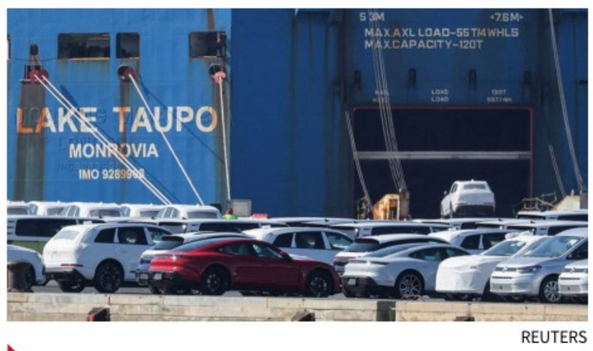
For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on website **https://isro.gov.in/tenders.html** and **https://tenderwizard.com/ISRO** at tender free view. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website **https://tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)
COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
संदर्भ/REF : S & NI / Consultancy / 2025 तिथि/Date: 28/04/2025
प्रस्ताव हेतु अनुरोध / REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (सीएसएल) केरल के कोच्ची में सीएसएल मुख्य परिसर में परामर्श सेवाओं और कार्यनीतिक परियोजना प्रबंधन कार्यालय (एसपीएमओ) की स्थापना केलिए प्रतिष्ठित और अनुभवी परामर्श फर्मों से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करता है।
Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) invites proposals from reputed and experienced consulting firms for **Consultancy services and Establishment of Strategic Project Management Office (SPMO) at CSL Main campus in Kochi, Kerala.**
उपरोक्त आरएफपी का विवरण एवं शर्तें हमारी वेबसाइट : www.cochinshipyard.in or www.eprocure.gov.in . पर उपलब्ध हैं। Details & conditions of the above RFP is available on our website: www.cochinshipyard.in or www.eprocure.gov.in. पात्रता मानदंड को पूरा करने वाली इच्छुक फर्मों से अनुरोध है कि वे निर्धारित पूर्व बोली बैठक में उपस्थित हों और आवश्यक दस्तावेज़ों के साथ प्रतिक्रिया दें। यदि कोई परिशिष्ट/शुद्धिपत्र है तो उसे केवल वेबसाइट पर ही उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। फर्मों से अनुरोध है कि वे आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि तक वेबसाइट पर नज़र रखें।
Interested firms meeting the eligibility criteria are requested to attend scheduled Pre Bid Meeting and respond with required documents. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any will be made available only on the website. Firms are requested to monitor the website till the last date of submission.
बोलियां प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि **28.05.2025 को 1500 बजे है।**
Last date of receipt of Bids is **1500 Hrs on 28.05.2025.**
ह/-Sd/-
महाप्रबंधक (कार्यनीति एवं नई पहल)
General Manager (Strategy & New initiatives)

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd,** the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **15.05.2025, for recovery of Rs. 1,85,80,041.81/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Five Lakhs Eighty Thousand Fourty One and Paise Eight One only)** due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd", Secured Creditor from (1) Mr. R Lingappa (Borrower)** S/o R Narasaiah, Near Ramaiah Thota, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur-561203 **(2) Mrs. L Lalithamma, (Borrower)** W/oR Lingappa, Near Ramaiah Thota, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur-561203 **(3) Mr.D Jayaprakash, (Guarantor)** S/o D Kristappa, R/o Near Saraswathi School Road, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur-561203 **(4) Mr K Govindappa,** S/o M.K Chinnaroddappa, D.No: C 82, Opp: Ganesha Temple, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur-561203. **(5) Nareshbabu (Borrower),** S/o R Lingappa, 141, Beside Cable Ramesh House Karenahalli, Doddaballapura, Karnataka-561203. **The reserve price will be Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs only).**
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Entire Residential Built up at Site No: K.No. 1110/1110/45, Sy No:45, Karenahalli Village, 11th Division 2nd ward, Doddaballapur Town and Taluk, approximately measuring 31 x 39 sft with an approximate plinth area of 759 sft each in ground, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors and bounded by: East By: House of D Kullayappa, West By : House of Anitha, North By: Road, South By : Site of Basavarajappa.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/ Secured Creditor's website i.e **www.kvb.co.in/Property** Under Auction also at the web portal **BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**
Statutory 15 Days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
Date : 29.04.2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**

WASHINGTON

Trump to issue order offering automakers relief on his 25% tariffs



REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump will sign an executive order on Tuesday to relax some of his 25% tariffs on autos and auto parts, the White House said. Automakers and independent analyses have indicated that the tariffs could raise prices, reduce sales and make U.S. production less competitive worldwide. AP

STOCKHOLM

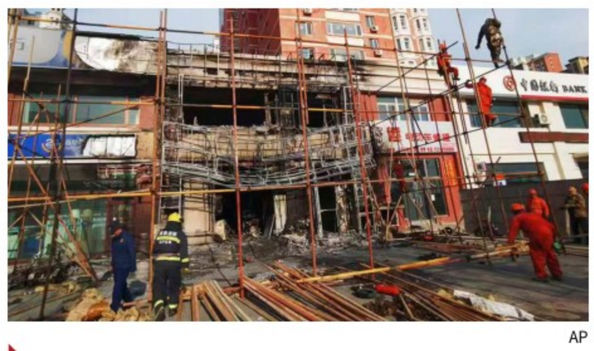
Three killed in shooting incident north of the Swedish capital

AP

Three persons were shot dead in a city north of the Swedish capital on Tuesday, the latest shooting to rock the Nordic nation. The police received reports of shots fired in the centre of Uppsala, 60 km north of Stockholm. Witnesses said a suspect fled on a scooter. Media reports said shots were fired inside a hair salon. AFP

BEIJING

More than 20 killed in fire at a restaurant in northeast China



AP

A restaurant fire in northeastern China killed 22 people and injured three on Tuesday. The blaze erupted at lunchtime in Liaoyang city, about 580 km northeast of Beijing. The cause of the fire is under investigation. President Xi Jinping called for 'every effort to treat the injured and to provide support to families of the deceased'. AFP

DAMASCUS

14 killed in sectarian clashes as Syrian govt. vows accountability

AFP

14 persons including six Druze fighters were killed in sectarian clashes near Damascus, as authorities blamed "gunmen" and vowed to pursue those involved. The overnight clashes, sparked by the circulation of an audio recording deemed blasphemous, were met with condemnation from leaders of the Druze minority. AFP

'Trump is trying to break us,' warns Canada's Mark Carney, after poll win

'America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country,' says the Liberal Prime Minister in his victory speech, adding that he would stand up to Trump; Conservative leader Poilievre concedes defeat, but vows to 'keep fighting'

Associated Press
TORONTO

Canada's Prime Minister Mike Carney, whose Liberal Party won Sunday's election, stressed the importance of Canadian unity in the face of Washington's threats.

"We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the lessons," he said.

"As I've been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country," Mr. Carney said. "These are not idle threats. President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never ... ever happen. But we also must recognise the reality that our world has fundamentally changed."

Glory moment: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney arrives on stage at his campaign headquarters in Ottawa on Tuesday. AP

The Conservative Party's leader, Pierre Poilievre, hoped to make the election a referendum on former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose popularity declined toward the end of his decade in power as food and housing prices rose.

But U.S. President Donald Trump questioned Canada's sovereignty, Mr. Trudeau resigned and Mr. Carney, a two-time central banker, became the Liberal Party's leader and Prime Minister.

In a concession speech, Mr. Poilievre vowed to keep fighting for Canadians.

"We are cognisant of the fact that we didn't get over the finish line yet," he told supporters in Ottawa. "We know that change is needed, but change is hard to come by. It takes time. It takes work. And that's why we have to learn the lessons of tonight – so that we can have an even better result the next time Canadians decide the future of the country."

Even with Canadians grappling with the fallout from a deadly weekend attack at a Vancouver street festival, Mr. Trump was trolling them on election day, suggesting again on social media that Canada should become the 51st State and saying he was on their ballot.

Trump probes *Harvard Law Review* for discrimination

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration said it has launched an investigation into Harvard University and *Harvard Law Review* for "race-based discrimination" after receiving reports about the prestigious legal journal's selection process for articles.

The probe comes as Mr. Trump cracks down on U.S. universities on several fronts, alleging widespread anti-Semitism, anti-white bias, and the promotion of "gender ideology" by protecting transgender students.

Harvard, which has seen billions in federal funding frozen after it rejected wide-ranging government oversight, filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration last week.

On Monday, the civil rights offices of the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services announced that it had received information about *Harvard Law Review*'s "policies and practices for journal membership and article selection that may violate" the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Tit for tat: Harvard, which saw billions in federal funding frozen, had filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration last week. AFP

Title VI bans recipients of federal funds – such as Harvard – "from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the recipient's programs or activities," the agencies said in a joint statement.

"*Harvard Law Review*'s article selection process appears to pick winners and losers on the basis of race," said Craig Trainor, acting assistant secretary for civil rights in the education department.

He added that the Trump administration "will not allow Harvard... to trample on anyone's civil rights."

Founded in 1887, *Harvard Law Review* is a student-run journal that publishes articles by legal scholars and practitioners. It counts former U.S. President Barack Obama – appointed in 1990 as the first Black head – as among its leaders.

Three killed as Russia and Ukraine troops stage drone strikes

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian and Ukrainian forces fired dozens of drones at each other early on Tuesday, killing a 12-year-old girl in Ukraine and two persons in a Russian border region.

The attacks came less than two days into a week the U.S. warned would be "critical" for the peace process and as U.S. officials threaten to abandon their push for a ceasefire if they do not see progress soon.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared a three-day truce in May to coincide with Moscow's World War II commemorations.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy said this was only intended for Mr. Putin to "have silence" during Moscow's May 9 military parade and sought an immediate ceasefire.

Russia says it is awaiting Ukraine's response on Putin's proposed three-day truce in May

The Kremlin said on Tuesday that Ukraine had not responded to many offers by Mr. Putin to start direct peace negotiations, and that it was unclear whether it would join the truce.

"It was President Putin who repeatedly said that Russia is ready, without any preconditions, to start the negotiations process," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "We have not heard a response from the Kyiv regime so far."

Russia fired 100 drones at Ukraine between late Monday and early Tuesday, the Ukrainian air force said.

Over 50 Gaza aid workers faced abuse in Israeli detention, says UN

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, on Tuesday said more than 50 of its staff in Gaza were abused and used as human shields while in Israeli military detention.

"Since the start of the war in October 2023, over 50 UNRWA staff among them teachers, doctors, social workers, have been detained and abused," UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini wrote on X.

"They have been treated in the most shocking & inhumane way. They reported being beaten + used as human shields."

Mr. Lazzarini said those detained had been subjected to "sleep deprivation, humiliation, threats of harm to therm & their families + attacks by dogs".

"Many were subjected to forced confessions. This nothing short of harrowing & outrageous."

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Career Oriented Online Certification Course On
Six Sigma
Green Belt & Black Belt
To improve business processes by reducing defects and errors
SSGB (35 Hrs)
Date : 03rd May 2025
Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees : 5900/- (Inclusive of GST)
SSBB (35 Hrs)
Date : 14th June 2025
Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees : 11,800/- (Inclusive of GST)
Green Belt Registration link | Black Belt Registration link | COMBO Registration link | Course Content
Registration
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SSGB + SSBB: Rs.15,340/- (Inclusive of GST)
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CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 01/2025-26 Dated : 29-04-2025
The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist. on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for "Construction of Basic Infrastructure to Perform Cauvery Aarati in line with Ganga Aarati on the Downstream of Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Srirangapattana taluk, Mandya District" and on EMD As per KPPP Portal. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com
NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-32/2025
e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of TC Pomegranate Plantlet for the Year-2025-26
OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender from Producers only on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of TC Pomegranate Plantlet for the Year-2025-26 in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of TC Pomegranate Plantlet for the year - 2025-26
No of work	One
Availability of bid documents in portal	15 hours on dt.28.04.2025 to 17 hours of dt.19.05.2025
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17 hours of dt.19.05.2025
Date and time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hours of dt.20.05.2025

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation can also be seen in the said website.
CAD-225:
Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
OIPR-01045/11/0059/2526

Advertisement No. 808/FSD-16/2024(2) Dated: 29.04.2025
Economics & Statistics Division, Planning Department,
Government of Uttar Pradesh
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest for proposals for
Survey Related Data Processing, Analysis and Report Generation task
The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced agencies for *"Survey Related Data Processing, Analysis and Report Generation Task for the following two surveys -*
- Priodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- Anuual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)
- Approximately 24000 Units (FSU) will be covered in the two surveys.

EOI Schedule

Date of Publish of EOI	30/04/2025
Last Date to receive all the queries if any	05/05/2025 17:00 Hours
Last Date and Time for receipts of duly filled EOI	15/05/2025 17:00 Hours
Address for Communication/Submission of EOI	Dr. Shuaib Ahmad, Additional Director, DESUP, Arth Evam Sankhya Bhawan, 9-Sarojini Naidu Marg, Lucknow-226001 Contact No: 9415549460
Date and Time for Technical Presentation (Technical Presentation should be focused on Techno-Commercial Proposal for the tasks mentioned in Scope of Work and Deleverables)	Date and Time will be informed separately by e-mail
Venue of Technical Presentation	3rd Floor, Meeting Hall, Economics and Statistics Division, Arth Evam Sankhya Bhawan, 9-Sarojini Naidu Marg, Lucknow-226001, UP.
Email for Communication	fsdesd@nic.in
Project Details (SoW and ToR)	The Scope of work and Tentative ToR may be obtained from our website https://updes.up.nic.in
Contact Person Details	Dr. Shuaib Ahmad, Additional Director, DESUP, Arth Evam Sankhya Bhawan, 9-Sarojini Naidu Marg, Lucknow-226001 Contact No: 9415549460

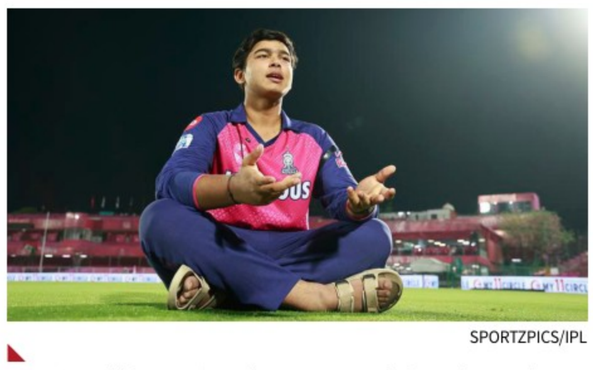
Note : The documents related to Technical and Financial details must be submitted in a seprate envelope
For Details of EOI : https://updes.up.nic.in
For Detail Contact
• Aditional Director Mob-9415549460 E-mail:fsdesd@nic.in
• Joint Director (Computer) Mob-7905420789 E-mail:itesd@nic.in
Director Economics & Statistics E-mail : upesd@nic.in
Economics & Statistics Division, Arth Evam Sankhya Bhawan, 9-Sarojini Naidu Marg, Lucknow-226001 Phone No. 0522-2238969,2238965
UPID RO: 233183 RO Dt: 29/04/2025 Website: www.up.gov.in

Advertisement No. 36/2025
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Finance)
in
Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
23rd May, 2025
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on
02nd June, 2025.
For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi – 110029
NBEMS DIPLOMA FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – JUNE 2025
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS Diploma Final Theory Examinations on **09th, 10th and 11th June 2025.**
The online applications are being invited from **30th April 2025 to 20th May 2025(Till 11:55 PM)** at NBEMS website **https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=diploma**
Candidate Care Support : +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

INCREDIBLE STUFF

His life and world have changed forever: Hussey on Suryavanshi



SPORTZPICS/IPL

It was incredible, wasn't it? There are some of these players who come along, and when they are batting, you do not want to miss a ball. His life and world have changed forever now. Seeing him score a century off 30-odd balls was amazing to watch — CSK batting coach Mike Hussey on Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

NO BIG DEAL

First-ball sixes are normal for me, says swashbuckler Suryavanshi

R.V. MOORTHY

It was a normal thing for me (hitting a six off the first ball on his IPL debut). I have played under-19 for India and also at the domestic level, where I have hit first-ball sixes. In my mind I was clear that if the ball comes in my radar, I will hit it — Rajasthan Royals' teen star Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

CASH REWARD

Bihar CM Nitish announces ₹10 lakh for Suryavanshi

R.V. MOORTHY

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced a cash reward of ₹10 lakh for Vaibhav Suyravanshi following his record-breaking ton for RR against GT in the IPL. At 14 years and 32 days, the boy wonder, who hails from Bihar, became the youngest player to score a century in T20 cricket and the second-fastest to hit a ton in the IPL.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

Suryavanshi recalls the sacrifices of his parents on moment of glory

PTI

I am what I am because of my parents. My mother, for the sake of my practice schedule, wakes up at 3 in the morning after going to sleep at 11, sleeping barely three hours. She then prepares meals for me. My father left his work to support me — Suryavanshi expressing gratitude towards his parents Sanjeev and Aarti.

Narine's triple strike seals the deal as Knight Riders keep hopes alive

Varun and Anukul play a supporting role as the defending champion returns to winning ways; Axar's dismissal proves to be the turning point of the Capitals chase; du Plessis' fifty not good enough for the host; Raghuvanshi top-scores in a collective batting effort by the visiting team

IPL-18

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Trump card: Narine turned the match around for KKR in dramatic fashion. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

There is still life in Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL title defence. With just three wins in nine matches before Tuesday, KKR came into this fixture against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium desperately needing to get over the line. The visiting team did just that by clinching a 14-run win that consigned Capitals to its third defeat in four matches in the national capital. After racking up 204 for nine, KKR restricted the host to 190 for nine with Sunil Narine working his magic.

The pendulum swung multiple times during Capitals' chase. KKR had the ascendancy after striking thrice within the first seven overs, particularly with K.L. Rahul's run-out from a direct hit. Along with Axar Patel, though, Faf du Plessis stitched together a 76-run stand and kept his team in the fray.

Just when DC seemed to be nudging ahead – it needed 75 runs from the final seven overs – the guile and game-sense of Narine came to the fore. Having been belted for a six by Axar off the first ball of the 14th over, he pulled his length back ever so slightly and drew the left-hander into skewing a lofted shot to Harshit Rana at covers. The mystery spinner castled Tristan Stubbs four balls later before getting rid of du Plessis in his next over. He finished with figures of 4-0-29-3. Anukul Roy and Varun Chakaravarthy too played their part in the win.

At the halfway stage, KKR's batters must have had mixed feelings about their effort. While a rollicking start allowed the men in purple and gold to zoom to 79 for one at the end of the PowerPlay, there were many more runs they could have scored in the back end to take the game away from DC's reach. Angkrish's Raghuvanshi's 44 was the highest score, with most of the other batters frittering away quickfire starts.

DC's bowlers did their bit. Spinners Axar and Vipraj Nigam claimed two each while Mitchell Starc came away with three wickets. In the 20th over, Starc dismissed Rovman Powell and Anukul, thanks to a screamer by Dushmantha Chameera at deep backward square-leg, off consecutive balls. Andre Russell was then run out to make it a hat-trick of wickets for DC. It wasn't enough on the night for the home team though.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Porel b Starc 26 *(12b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Sunil Narine lbw b Vipraj 27 *(16b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Axar 26 *(14b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Karun b Chameera 44 *(32b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Vipraj b Axar 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Rinku Singh c Starc b Vipraj 36 *(25b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Andre Russell run out 17 *(9b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Rovman Powell lbw b Starc 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Anukul Roy c Chameera b Starc 0 *(1b)*, Harshit Rana (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Varun Chakaravarthy (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-11): 15; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 204.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-48 (Gurbaz, 2.6 overs), 2-85 (Narine, 6.4), 3-91 (Rahane, 7.2), 4-113 (Venkatesh, 9.2), 5-174 (Raghuvanshi, 16.5), 6-177 (Rinku, 17.3), 7-203 (Powell, 19.3), 8-203 (Anukul, 19.4), 9-203 (Russell, 19.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Starc 4-0-43-3, Chameera 3-0-46-1, Mukesh 2-0-17-0, Vipraj 4-0-41-2, Axar 4-0-27-2, Kuldeep 3-0-27-0.

DELHI CAPITALS
Abishek Porel c Russell b Anukul 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Faf du Plessis c Rinku b Narine 62 *(45b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Karun Nair lbw b Vaibhav 15 *(13b, 2x4)*, K.L. Rahul run out 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel c Harshit b Narine 43 *(23b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Tristan Stubbs b Narine 1 *(3b)*, Vipraj Nigam b Russell 38 *(19b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Ashutosh Sharma **(Impact Player for Mukesh)** c Narine b Varun 7 *(6b, 1x6)*, Mitchell Starc c Gurbaz b Varun 0 *(1b)*, Dushmantha Chameera (not out) 2 *(3b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-5, nb-1, w-4): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 190.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Porel, 0.2), 2-43 (Karun, 4.3), 3-60 (Rahul, 6.3), 4-136 (Axar, 13.2), 5-138 (Stubbs, 13.6), 6-146 (du Plessis, 15.2), 7-160 (Ashutosh, 17.2), 8-160 (Starc, 17.3), 9-189 (Vipraj, 19.5).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Anukul 4-0-27-1, Vaibhav **(Impact Player for Venkatesh)** 2-0-19-1, Harshit 4-0-49-0, Varun 4-0-39-2, Narine 4-0-29-3, Russell 2-0-22-1.

Toss: DC; **PoM:** Narine.
KKR won by 14 runs.

Next assignment

KKR: May 4 vs RR
Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

DC: May 5 vs SRH
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

'The way Suryavanshi batted was fantastic'

Simply sensational: Suryavanshi lit up the Sawai Mansingh Stadium with an astonishing knock. R.V. MOORTHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Suryavanshi played an absolute blinder against Gujarat Titans in the IPL on Monday. The little dynamo from Bihar produced what must be one of cricket's most astonishing innings by a teenager ever.

When something like that happens, there isn't much the opposition can do. Except watch in grudging admiration, perhaps.

GT batter Sai Sudharsan admitted Suryavanshi was fantastic to watch.

"The way he batted was tremendous and fantastic to watch," he said.

"But maybe we could have bowled better to him, we could have gone wider, we could have not bowled into his arc.

"One game doesn't determine the way we play. We will take the positives and work on the negatives. We will come back in the next game for sure".

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers	10	7	3	0	14	0.521
Mumbai Indians	10	6	4	0	12	0.889
Gujarat Titans	9	6	3	0	12	0.748
Delhi Capitals	10	6	4	0	12	0.362
Punjab Kings	9	5	3	1	11	0.177
Lucknow Super Giants	10	5	5	0	10	-0.325
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	0.271
Rajasthan Royals	10	3	7	0	6	-0.349
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	-1.103
Chennai Super Kings	9	2	7	0	4	-1.302

** Till the DC-KKR match on April 29*

Will the battered CSK batters fire against PBKS?

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Exuberant lot: Skipper Shreyas will have high expectations from young gun Priyansh. M. VEDHAN

Chennai Super Kings has been a gracious host to visiting teams in IPL 2025, having lost the last four matches in its backyard at the MAC Stadium.

But despite its nightmarish run, passionate fans have turned up and supported their franchise.

On Wednesday, Super Kings have an opportunity to delight their supporters when they take on Punjab Kings in their season's penultimate home game.

Showing promise

Even though they lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad last Friday, there were green shoots in the batting unit, with Ayush Mhatre and Dewald Brevis showing promise during their cameos.

Considering the five-time champion is all but eliminated, it will want to give the youngsters a sustained run.

The others, like Vansh Bedi and C. Andre Siddarth, are also waiting in the wings.

Meanwhile, PBKS, currently in fifth place, will look to do the double over the Men in Yellow and improve its chances of making the playoffs.

Shreyas Iyer & Co. start as favourites and can rely on their superior batting to secure the two points.

On the bowling front, spinners Yuzvendra Chahal, alongside Glenn Maxwell and Harpreet Brar, will have a crucial role to play here.

The Punjab outfit's last game, against KKR, was washed out, and it had lost the one before that against RCB.

As the tournament approaches its business end, Kings will want to capitalise on a bruised opponent and regain their winning momentum, especially with three challenging games against teams vying for the top-four spots looming after this fixture.

Today's match

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS vs. PUNJAB KINGS

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
CSK 16 | PBKS 15

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by 18 runs, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Grabbing the chance: Mhatre has been impressive in the couple of games he's been part of. M. VEDHAN

CSK's goal is to win the remaining matches, says Hussey

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings has had an eminently forgettable time, logging just two victories thus far in IPL 2025 but its batting coach Mike Hussey asserted the main focus is to win the remaining matches.

Hussey said that this season was different in that the team had seen lots of players get opportunities as things hadn't gone as per plan. He praised the attitude of players like Rachin Ravindra and Deepak Hooda who despite being left out of the playing XI chose to keep training hard with an eye on improvement. "Impressed with his (Hooda's) attitude, in particular. He was genuinely happy when youngsters got chances. Hooda did a decent job in the last match," Hussey said on the eve of the match against Punjab Kings.

Meanwhile, Punjab Kings fast bowling coach James Hopes spoke about the team's middle-order not faring well.

"It can get quite tough when the top-order is doing well . Our middle-order has not faced many balls in the last couple of weeks. They are training well. They will come good and have their moments when required".

India makes it two-in-a-row with 15-run victory over SA

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Up top: Sneh, right, celebrates the fall of a wicket. X@BCCIWOMEN

Spinner Sneh Rana grabbed three wickets in an over for her maiden five-wicket haul in WODIs while Pratika Rawal excelled with a well-crafted fifty to shape India's 15-run win over South Africa in the women's tri-series here on Tuesday.

Pratika continued her rich vein of form with a measured 78 off 91 balls, helping India post a competitive 276 for six after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur elected to bat first under sunny skies.

Sneh then snared five wickets as South Africa was bowled out for 261 in 49.2 overs despite Tazmin Brits's 109. South Africa lost its last five wickets for 21 runs, giving India its second consecutive victory in the tournament.

The seasoned off-spinner ended with figures of five for 43. She bowled a crucial 48th over, picking up three wickets and giving away just three runs.

Chasing a challenging total, South Africa came out all guns blazing.

Brits weathered adverse conditions and cramps to score a gritty 108 off 105 balls. She and captain Laura Wolvaardt stitched together a commanding 140-run opening stand, threatening to take the game away. But just when the momentum seemed to have shifted in South Africa's favour, India's spinners turned the tide.

Earlier, having scored a fluent fifty in the opening game, Pratika struck seven boundaries and a six during her composed knock.

She and Smriti Mandhana (36) gave India a solid start, putting on 83 in 18.3 overs for the opening wicket. Smriti played the support role, allowing Pratika to take the lead.

Harleen Deol contributed a steady 29 off 47 deliveries and added 68 with Pratika for the second wicket, before being bowled by left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba.

Pratika, who had brought up her fifth ODI fifty, looked set for a second hundred before Mlaba cleaned her up as well.

Despite the setback, the middle-order fired with Harmanpreet Kaur (41), Jemimah Rodrigues (41), and Richa Ghosh (24) making valuable contributions.

The scores: India 276/6 in 50 overs (Pratika 78, Harmanpreet 41, Jemimah 41, Harleen 29) bt South Africa 261 in 49.2 overs (Brits 109, Sneh 5/43).
Toss: India; **PoM:** Sneh.

INBRIEF

Shadman's century gives Bangladesh the lead

Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam smashed 120 in the second Test against Zimbabwe at Chittagong on Tuesday, giving the host a lead of 64 runs at the end of the second day.

The scores: Zimbabwe 227 in 90.1 overs (Williams 67, Welch 54, Taijul 6/60) vs Bangladesh 291/7 in 87 overs (Shadman 120, Mushfiqur 40).

India goes down to Indonesia, bows out of Sudirman Cup

India crashed out of the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals after losing 1-4 to formidable Indonesia in a Group D match here on Tuesday.

The results: Indonesia 4 bt India 1 (Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Gloria Emanuelle Widjala lost to Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto 21-10, 18-21, 19-21; Putri Kusuma Wardani bt P.V. Sindhu 21-12, 21-13; Jonatan Christie bt H.S. Prannoy 19-21, 21-14, 21-12; Lanny Tria Mayasari and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti bt Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra 21-10, 21-9; Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Daniel Marthin bt Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi 22-20, 21-18).

Chithambaram finishes joint first in rapid

Delivering under pressure, Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram put it across Frenchman Alireza Firouzja in the final game to finish joint first with 11 points after the end of the rapid section of *Superbet* rapid and blitz tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. R. Praggnanandhaa jumped to joint fourth spot.

The standings: Rapid: 1-3: Aravindh Chithamabaran, Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo), Firoujza Alireza (Fra) 11 each; **4-5:** R.. Pragnanandhaa, Levon Aronian (Usa) 10 each; 6 Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 9. **7-8**: Duda Jan-Kryzsztof (Pol), Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) 8 each; 9: David Gavrilescu (Rou) 7; 10. Veselin Topalov (Bul) 5.

Yamal stardust could give Barcelona edge on Inter

The Milan-based team, meanwhile, is undergoing a worrying slump in form that has seen its treble hopes go up smoke and will need its skipper Martinez to step up and deliver again

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Odds on favourite: Given the red-hot form it is in, Barcelona — spearheaded by Yamal, left — might prove too good for an Inter team that is struggling of late. AFP

Barcelona last reached the Champions League final a decade ago, with Lionel Messi as its torch-bearer.

Now the Catalan giant relies on another generational talent in Lamine Yamal as its 'X-factor' when it hosts Inter Milan on Wednesday in a semifinal first leg clash.

While Yamal, 17, is still honing his finishing, he holds the key to the team's potential success this season. The teenager, left-footed but operating on the right flank with freedom to roam, as Messi did for many years, is what gives Hansi Flick's brilliant Barca its edge.

He has been showing it all season, with 14 goals and 24 assists, and countless but crucial flashes of invention, genius and flair, on the back of his superb Euro 2024 displays with champion Spain last summer.

Flick's attacking Barca has captured the imagination and a grand part of that is due to Yamal.

Should Barcelona win the Champions League, Yamal is a potential Ballon d'Or winner.

Such a feat was hard to imagine so quickly when former Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez gave him his debut as a 15-year-old in April 2023 against Real Betis in LaLiga.

While Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha have the lion's share of the goals, so many of those would not be possible without Yamal's input.

Incisive dribbling

Either directly, from his dangerous in-swinging crosses, or indirectly, because of his incisive dribbling to take out three opponents in the build-up.

Inter, meanwhile, heads into the semifinals at risk of finishing the season empty-handed after a late-season slump killed its treble hopes and has left it wondering where the next win will come from.

Inter, since reaching the last four, has lost three games on the bounce without scoring a goal.

Simone Inzaghi's team looks tired and bereft of ideas up front.

Barca was Inter's semifinal opponent 15 years ago when, under Jose Mourinho, the eventual treble winner nearly threw away the Serie A title to Roma before triumphing on the final day of the season.

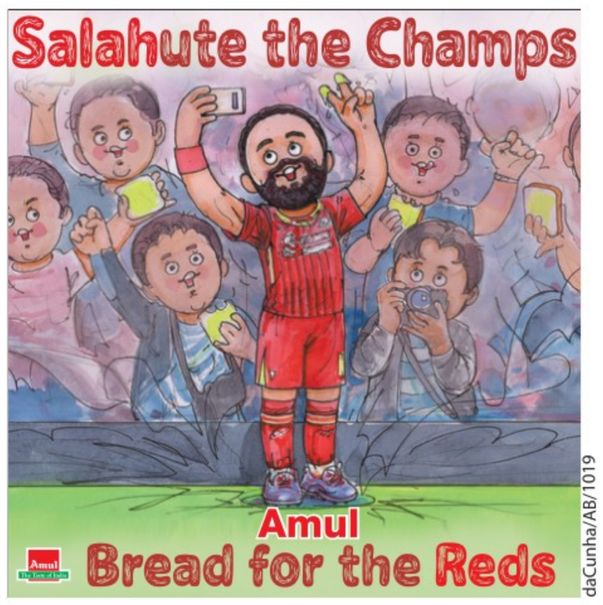
Inter will also have one day less rest after having its match with Roma moved back to Sunday so that it didn't clash with Pope Francis' funeral, giving France defender Benjamin Pavard less time to recover from an ankle sprain picked up at the weekend.

Barca on the other hand is on a high after beating Real Madrid to win the Cope del Rey on Saturday.

Inzaghi will be hoping striker Marcus Thuram will be available as his replacements have done nothing alongside Lautaro Martinez who has looked exhausted, and frustrated.

Captain Martinez has been key to Inter's run to the semifinals with goals which first sealed its place in the top eight of the league phase and then dragged his team to the last four.

The 27-year-old has scored seven times in five Champions League matches since the turn of the year, half of his total goal tally for that period.



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KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

FC Mangalore posts win

BENGALURU: FC Mangalore crushed Bangalore North FC 5-0 in KSFA 'C' men's division football league on Tuesday.

The results: KSFA men's 'C' division: Hawks United FC bt Kickstart Academy 1-0; Undisputed FC bt Agniputra FC 1-0; FC Mangalore bt Bangalore North FC 5-0; La Esperanza drew with Stadium FC 1-1.

KSFA women's 'B' division: Blues FA bt Mysore VFC 1-0; K3 Sports bt Spidemy 1-0; Reds United FC bt Bangalore Blues 1-0; Kemp Juniors FC bt Silicans FC 4-3.

BDFA 'A' men's division: Bangalore Dream United FC 4 (K. Lalrinfela 3, Lakshmikant Berllur Srinivas 22, Jai Hari Barman 32, Londup Lepcha 76) bt Jawahar Union FC 0; Vijayanagara FC 1 (Hentinsei Kipgen 9) bt DYES FC 0.

BDFA 'C' men's division: Hampinagar FC bt Vinayaka FC 5-0.

Kreeda Kshetra has it easy

Kreeda Kshetra outplayed The School Of Cricket by 173 runs in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament on Tuesday.

The scores: Kreeda Kshetra 294/6 in 30 overs (Kushal Javaji 98, Arush Jain 60, Gokhulnathan 26) bt The School Of Cricket 121 in 28.3 overs (Arnav Gupta 30, Tarun Rajesh 28).

Parvez Ahmed.

Parvez takes lead

Karnataka's Parvez Ahmed took the lead in the ARC South Zone tenpin bowling tournament here on Tuesday.

Parvez recorded a total pinfall of 1174 (average 195.67) from six games at the end of Round 1.

Lalith Kumar (Telangana) (total pinfall 1158) is in second position.

Eshwar Rao (Karnataka) (1134) and Naveen Siddam (Telangana) (1132) are in third and fourth positions respectively.

Sachin, Rohit and Sahil to take part in Neeraj Chopra Classic

Sports Bureau

The Neeraj Chopra Classic, which will be held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on May 24, announced its Indian line-up on Tuesday.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist and reigning world champion Neeraj will headline the meet in his honour.

He will face tough competition from some of the biggest names in javelin throw.

Sachin Yadav (84.39m PB), Rohit Yadav (83.40m PB) and Sahil Silwal (81.81m PB) have been confirmed as the official entries from the country.

Anjum wins rifle 3-position

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anjum Moudgil won the 50m rifle 3-position gold with a 5.9 point margin over Prachi Gaikwad in the 23rd Kumar Surendra Singh championship.

The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Anjum Moudgil 464.4 (590); 2. Prachi Gaikwad 458.5 (583); 3. Aakriti Dahiya 443.7 (583).

Juniors: 1. Prachi 454.4 (583); 2. Ramita Jindal 450.4 (575); 3. Sharanya Lakhan 435.6 (575).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

As Suryavanshi cuts a slice of history for himself, fans look to the future

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

For half a century, Samastipur in Bihar was best known for the bomb blast that killed India's then Railway minister. Now a 14-year-old, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, is likely to replace that image. If all goes well, Samastipur will be better known as the birthplace of one of the most remarkable batters to burst into the national consciousness as a teenager.

There is something about six-hitting that immediately focusses attention on a player, guarantees an eager following and fills stadiums. C K Nayudu's 11 sixes against the MCC hastened India's Test debut; in the 1970s, a 19-year-old Dilip Vengsarkar hit seven sixes off Bishan Bedi and Erapalli Prasanna in the Irani Trophy to announce his arrival, and on his first tour, Sachin Tendulkar hit Abdul Qadir for four sixes in an over and never looked back.

Say what you want about modern bats, shorter boundaries, fielding and bowling restrictions and good wickets in T20, but for a 14-year-old to hit 11 sixes in a 35-ball century against a top bowling attack is astounding.

He mis-hit a couple, which is the modern way, but he also deposited a couple on the roof of the stadium. He has the quality the best have – balance. It enabled him to drive fast bowler Prasidh Krishna over long off in the shot of the day, perhaps of the tournament.

Balance, timing, ball sense, confidence (and luck!) – the abstract elements – already exist in Suryavanshi's game. The rest is a matter of technique and practice. He seems to be a quick learner; uncertainty against the short delivery in earlier games was replaced by an eagerness to smash it out of the ground.

Hesitation against spin is making way for decisiveness. Getting down low against spin to cart it over square leg is paying dividends.

He played Rashid Khan with respect – but still hit him for a six and a superb straight drive. His jersey flapping in the wind exposing his navel and confirming the puppy fat – all those jalebis, his favourite, must settle somewhere – is a unique sight.

The riches of the game, three formats, wealth, renown, await Suryavanshi. The pressure has just begun. The national selectors must get their timing right. Pick him too early and it might lead to regrets. Too late might snuff out the fire. He has pushed himself into the conversation, though.

The IPL has seen three significant, even great centuries: Brendon McCullum's 158 in the inaugural match in 2008, Chris Gayle's 175 in 2013 and now this. The first two were by established players. Each was made by the quintessential IPL batter of his time. Suryavanshi's century was state-of-the-art batting in the format. Ishant Sharma (199 international matches, 434 wickets) was twice sent into the crowd past midwicket, but he induced one of the many false strokes. By showing the full face of the bat to a slower delivery, Suryavanshi saved himself.

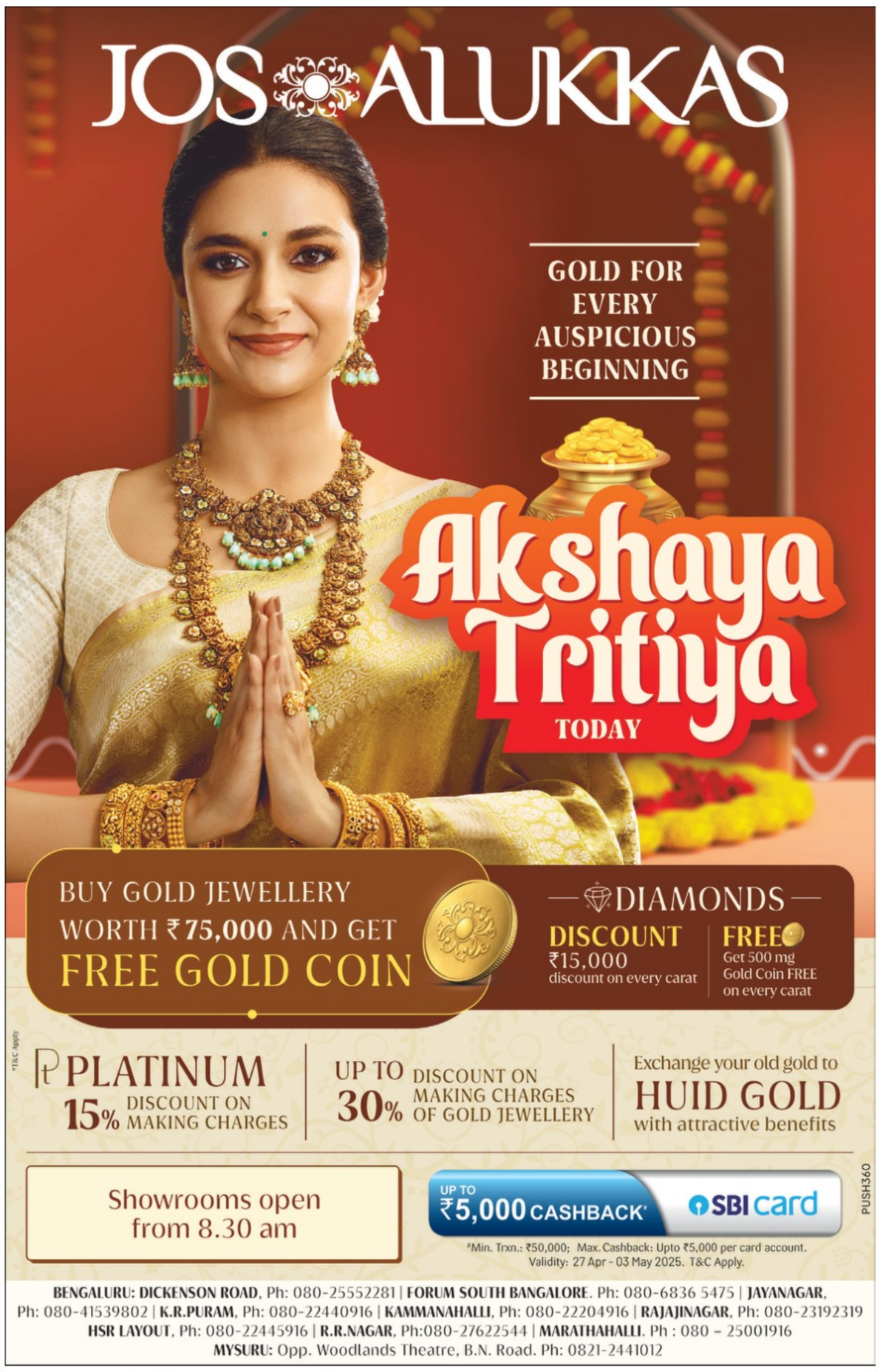
We have to constantly remind ourselves Suryavanshi is only 14, just as in Pakistan all those years ago, we in the media box had to remind ourselves that Tendulkar was only 16. The jokes you now hear were rolled out then.

That he was too young to play ODIs because the match went beyond his bed-time; that he needed a letter from his parents to be allowed to fly, and so on. The only new one is that Suryavanshi's partner needed to cover his eyes every time the cheerleaders went into their act.

His father Sanjeev has been reported as saying, "The moment I saw him pick up a bat, I realised there is something about him." He gave up his jewellery business and took to farming to be able to focus on the son's career. From the age of nine, Suryavanshi was facing fast bowlers with a cricket ball. At 11, he hit a double century in a 40-over match.

Such legends are set to grow. In two directions. Already there is a video online where it appears Suryavanshi might be older than 14. As old as 15, in fact! So perhaps M.S. Dhoni might not be three times his age.

It doesn't matter. Talent met opportunity, as the IPL motto has it. Let's rejoice; an innings like that is an antidote to cynicism.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